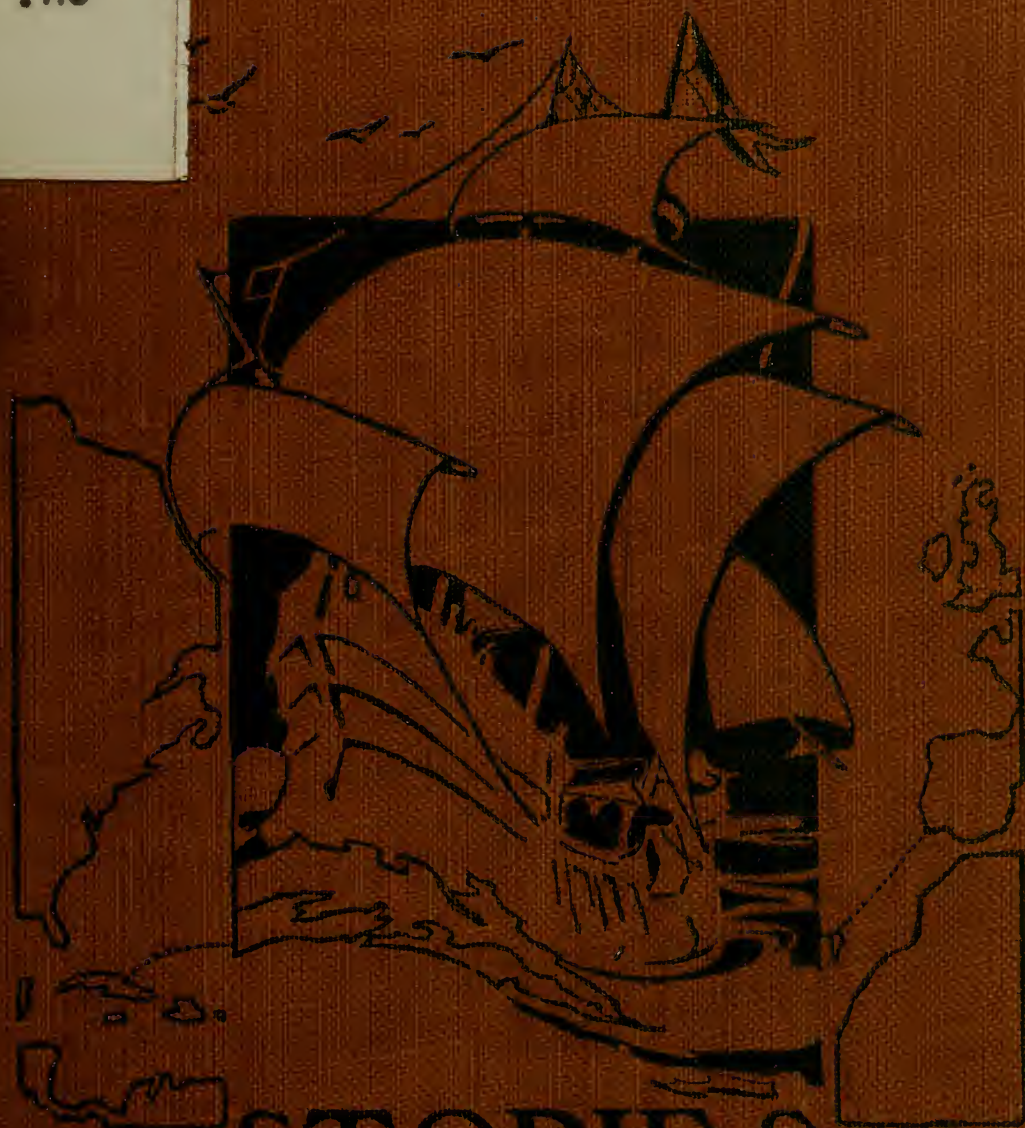


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OF
GREAT HEROES

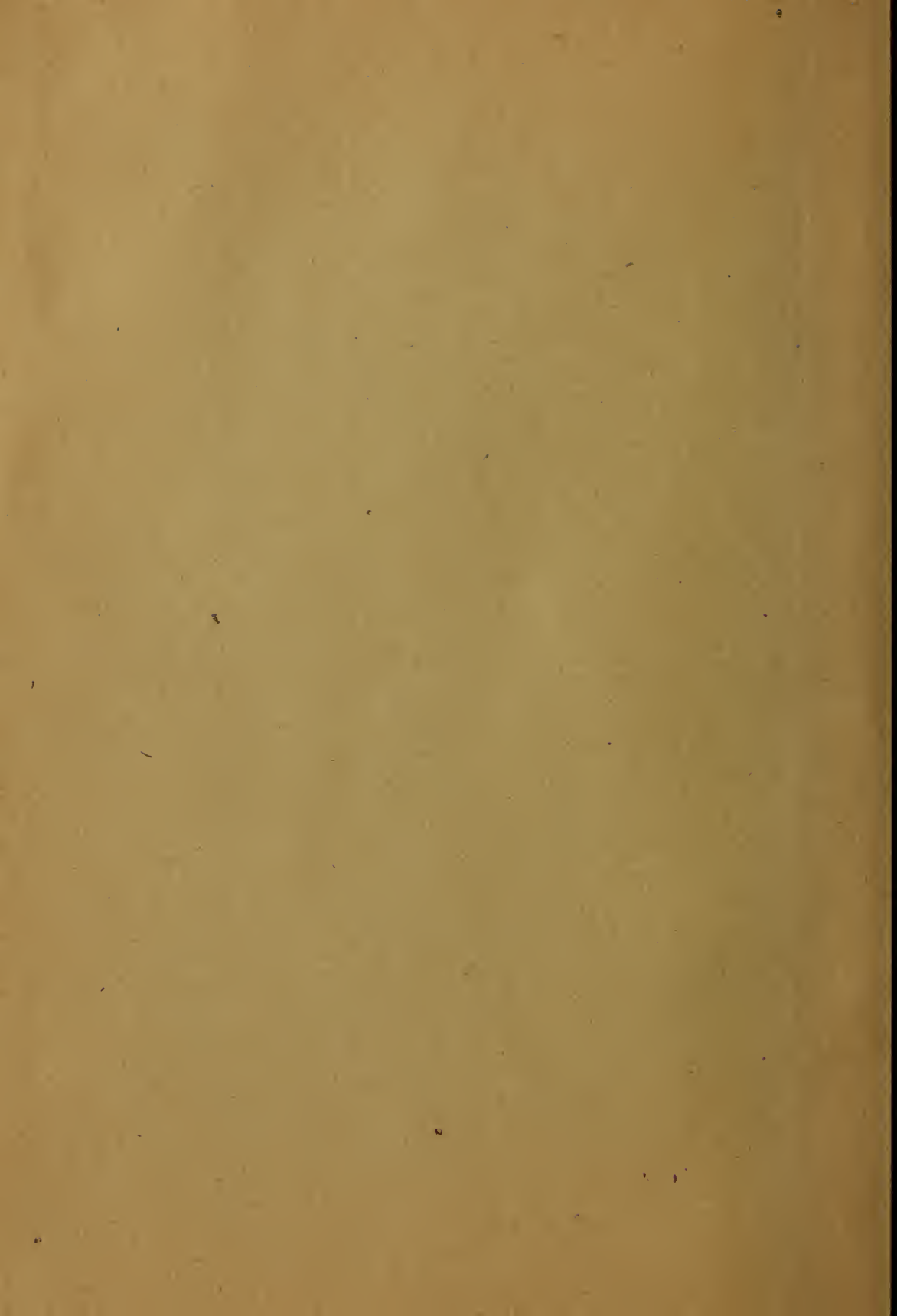


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STORIES OF GREAT HEROES



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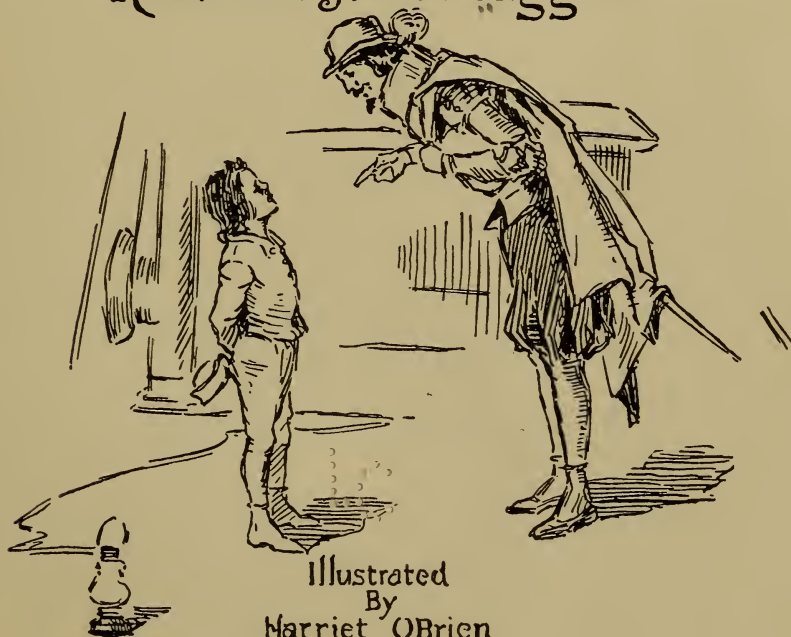
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STORIES of GREAT HEROES

DISCOVERERS EXPLORERS AND CHRISTIANIZERS
OF
AMERICA

BY
Reverend James Higgins



Illustrated
By
Harriet O'Brien

New York
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1919

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Nihil Obstat

REV. PATRICK J. WATERS, Ph.D.,
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✠ WILLIAM CARDINAL O'CONNELL,
Archbishop of Boston.

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no. 1.

Lovingly Dedicated to the
Future Men and Women
of America

PREFACE

AT the present time, educators are putting forth their best efforts to secure for the study of American History the important place that it deserves in the curriculum of our elementary schools. This commendable movement has the sympathy and the support of all teachers. It stands for progress and efficiency in forming aright the character of the young. It aims at producing the truest, the noblest, and the best specimen of American citizens.

With this purpose in mind, this book presents a number of brief biographies of the discoverers, explorers, and Christianizers of the New World. These stories, which have appeared in the columns of the *North American Teacher*, are eminently suited to give our Elementary School children correct ideas of the great men who, from 1492 to 1600, brought to our shores the torch of civilization and Christianity. They are written in a picturesque style that cannot but appeal to boys and girls. They are brimming over with accounts of daring on land and sea, in which the child's viewpoint dominates.

The reading of these narratives cannot fail to emphasize the fact that nearly all the great discoverers, explorers, and Christianizers of the New World, from 1492 to 1600, were Catholics; and it will undoubtedly make our boys and girls proud of the important part taken by many of these pioneers in civilizing and Christianizing the natives of America.

The "Questions on the Text," the "Correlated Studies," and the "Pronouncing Vocabulary" will be found helpful both to teachers and pupils. They are not to be regarded as complete or comprehensive; they are merely suggestive.

If these stories give American boys and girls a proper appreciation of the great and far-reaching work of the noble heroes who came to our shores from 1492 to 1600, and if they help to foster and nourish the spirit of loyalty to God and country, this book fulfills its highest purpose.

TEACH AMERICAN HISTORY

As far back as the year 1884, the Archbishops and the Bishops of our country, in the following words, strongly recommended the study of American History to the Catholics of the United States.

“Teach your children to take special interest in the history of the United States. We consider the establishment of our country’s independence, the shaping of its liberties and its laws, as a work of special Providence, — its framers ‘building wiser than they knew’ — the Almighty’s hand guiding them.

“We desire, therefore, that the history of the United States should be carefully taught in all our Catholic schools; and we have directed that it be specially dwelt upon in the education of the young ecclesiastical students in our preparatory seminaries. We also desire that it form a favorite part of the home library and the home reading.

“We must keep firm and solid the liberties of our country by refreshing our minds with the noble memories of the past, so that we may send forth from our Catholic homes not partisans but patriots.”

CONTENTS

	PAGE
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS	I
AMERICUS VESPUCCIUS	15
JOHN CABOT	21
VASCO NUÑEZ DE BALBOA	29
REV. BARTHOLOMEW LAS CASAS	42
PONCE DE LEON	54
HERNANDO CORTES	61
FERDINAND MAGELLAN	72
FERDINAND DE SOTO	84
FRANCISCO PIZARRO	93
REV. LUIS CANCER, O.S.D.	101
JOHN VERRAZANO	108
JAMES CARTIER	113
PETER MENENDEZ	120
REV. PETER MARTINEZ, S.J.	124
SIR FRANCIS DRAKE	127
REV. PETER DE CORPA, O.S.F.	132
APPENDIX	137
TOPICAL INDEX	141

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

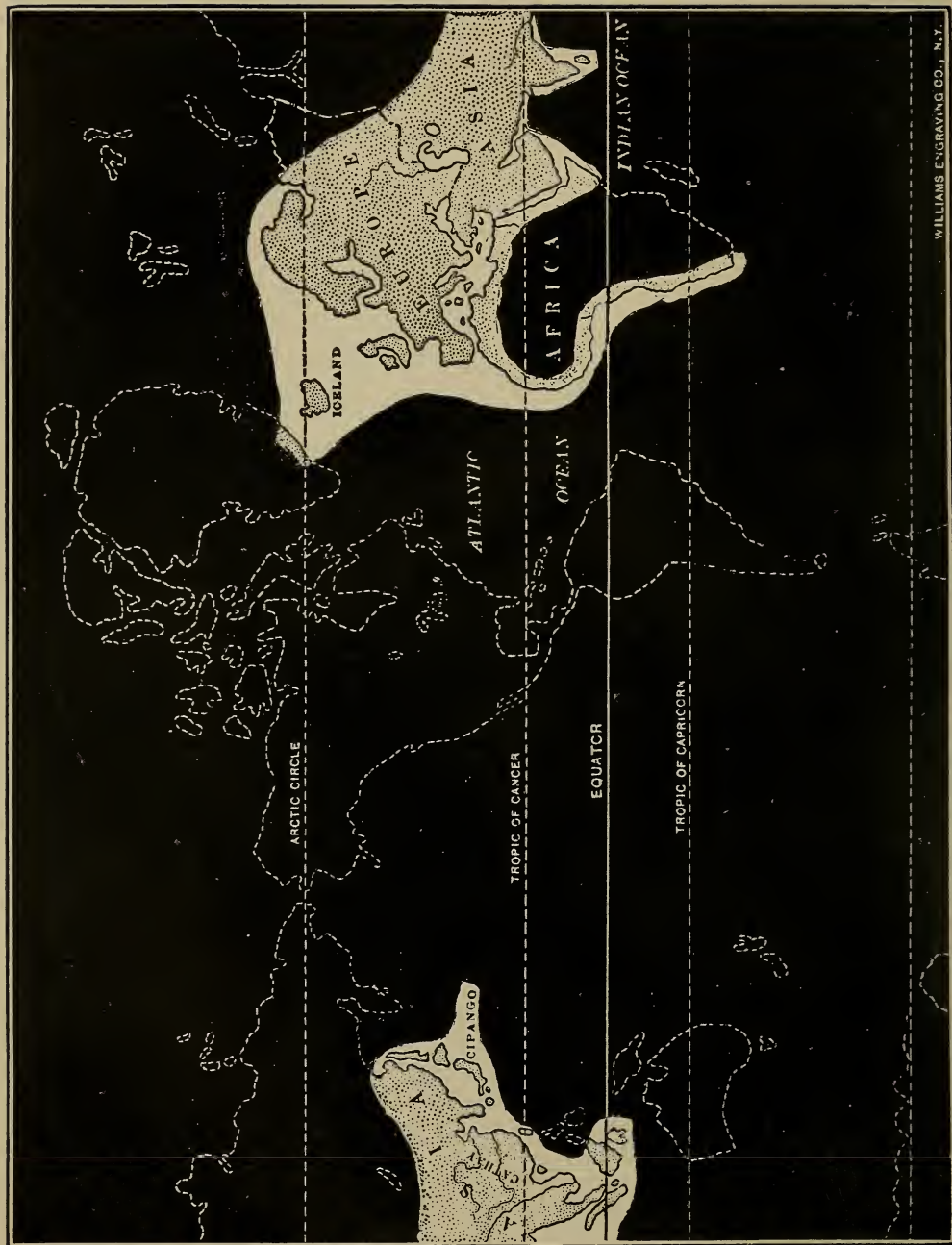
	PAGE
The World as Known at the Time of Columbus' First Voyage	To face 1
Columbus Leaving Spain to Discover a New Route to India	4
Columbus Lands on American Soil	7
Columbus in Chains	11
The Boy Vespuccius and His Teacher	16
Where the Indians Lived and Slept	18
John Cabot as a Boy	22
Balboa Trying to Escape	31
Balboa Discovers the Pacific Ocean	34
Balboa Led to Execution	39
Father Las Casas, the Defender of the Indians	43
The Bloodhounds Attacking the Indians	45
Ponce de Leon Looking for the Fountain of Youth	57
The Spaniards Attacked by the Indians	59
Cortes Rushing toward the Church	62
Cortes Meeting the Messengers of Montezuma	64
The Capture of Montezuma	67
Magellan Sets Sail for the New World	74
The Patagonian Giant and the Spanish Sailor	77
The Death of Magellan	80
De Soto and Isabella	85
De Soto at the Inca's Palace	87
The Burial of De Soto	90
The Boy Pizarro Hears about the New World	93
The Capture of Atahualpa	97
A Novel Way of Christianizing the Indians	103
Father Cancer Faces Death	105
Verrazano Approaching the Indians	110
Cartier Trading with the Indians	114
Cartier Sailing up the St. Lawrence	115
Menendez before Philip II	121
Francis Drake Cultivating a Love for the Sea	128

TO THE TEACHER

THE "Correlated Studies" which follow each story are intended primarily to enlarge the experience of the individual pupil by requiring him to study one of the topics, and then to impart to the other pupils the knowledge thus acquired. This work, when properly carried out, is an aid both to impression and expression.

These studies should not be assigned to the children until the text has been sufficiently understood. The teacher is recommended to divide her class into as many sections as there are topics in the "Correlated Studies," and to assign one of the topics to each section.

The preparation of these studies requires different degrees of mental power and historical knowledge. Some of them are comparatively easy; others are more difficult; still others need considerable investigation and thought. Should the teacher deem any one of the topics too difficult for her class, she should omit it.



WILLIAMS ENGRAVING CO., N.Y.

MAP OF THE WORLD AS KNOWN BEFORE THE TIME OF COLUMBUS

STORIES OF GREAT HEROES

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

His Birthplace. — Were you walking along the streets of the beautiful city of Genoa in sunny Italy about four hundred seventy years ago, you would have noticed several clusters of children playing games or watching the different vessels coming to or going from that well-known port. Among these healthy Italians you would undoubtedly see a bright-looking little boy with laughing eyes and golden hair, and you would be impressed with the earnestness and delight with which he watched the sailing vessels in the harbor. In a moment of curiosity, you would say, in Italian, “What is your name, little boy?” and he would tell you “Cristoforo Colombo.”

His Education. — After further questions, you would find that this little Italian boy attended school in his native city; that he was a most diligent student, especially in history, geography, and map-drawing; and that, in his leisure moments, his great pleasure was to listen to the wonderful tales which the sailors told him about their adventures.

We must not think, however, that young Columbus was an idle, lazy boy; for every evening after school he used to help his father in the wool-combing business, and, what is more to his credit, he did it most willingly.

Though he was always neatly dressed, especially when he went to Mass with his father and mother on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation, he was by no means a namby-pamby boy. On the contrary, he was full of spirit and brimming over with fun. When he played, as well as when he worked, he entered into his games with his whole heart.

His Life as a Sailor. — The boy's acquaintance with many sailors, and the numerous stories he heard, helped to develop his natural attraction for the sea. It was no surprise to his parents when, at the age of fourteen, he asked their permission to become a cabin boy. Indeed, it was one of the proudest moments of his life when the ship on which he was to sail hoisted anchor for a voyage to some port in the Mediterranean or to some distant country, such as France or England.

As a sailor, Christopher was a most apt pupil. He studied with the greatest eagerness and delight every part of the vessel; he listened to the sailors tell about the different stars in the heavens; he sketched the seacoast of every country which he saw; he made an outline of every port and harbor that he visited; and he soon learned how to manage a ship.

The Problem of the Hour. — It is a well-known fact that the people of Europe carried on a very large trade with India, till the Turks made it dangerous to go there by the overland route. Then it was that every merchant, trader, and sailor wished to find another way to India.

Having grown to manhood, and having become proficient as a sailor, Columbus was naturally interested in finding a new route to India. He made a deep study of the matter. He considered every scheme that had been proposed. He

consulted experienced seamen. He did everything that a human being could do to solve the problem.

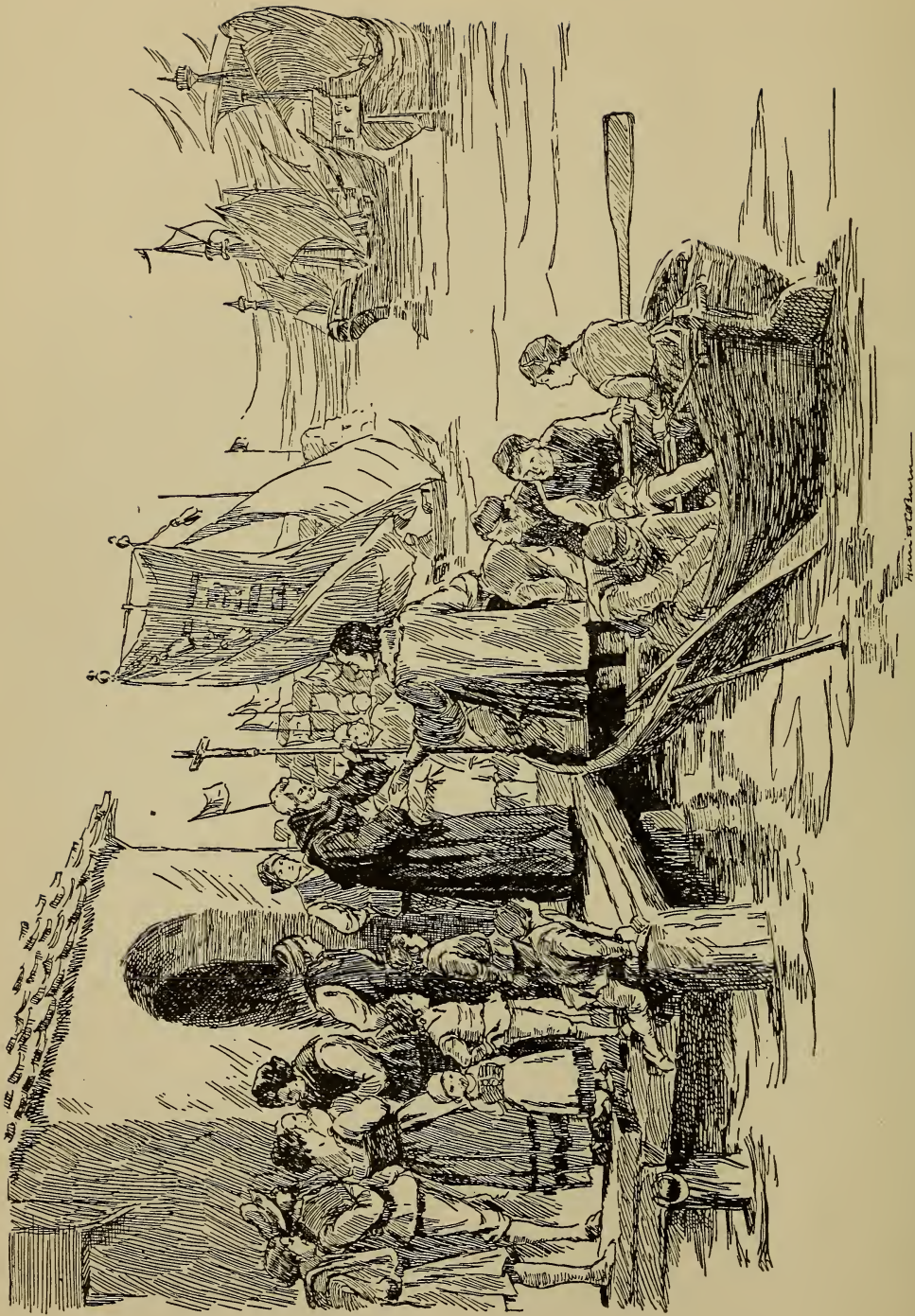
At last a thought occurred to him. "Since the world is round," he said, "if I sail to the west, I shall surely reach India." Unfortunately for Columbus, many people believed at the time that the earth was flat; so they considered his scheme actually foolish.

His First Difficulty.—Columbus, however, was too thoroughly convinced of the soundness of his plan to be discouraged by such an objection. Endowed with great courage and perseverance, and wishing to extend the kingdom of God on earth, he appealed to several countries of Europe to supply the means to make this voyage of discovery; but one after another turned a deaf ear to his appeal.

Columbus, having been refused help by the King of Portugal and the King of Spain, decided to ask the King of France. On his way thither, he happened to stay overnight at a Spanish monastery. The prior, Father John Perez, after a short conversation with his visitor, became very much interested in the new route to India mapped out by Columbus. As a result of the priest's influence with Queen Isabella, three small sailing vessels were fitted out for a trial voyage.

After securing the aid of the Spanish Queen, another difficulty arose. It was impossible to hire sailors to go on the expedition. Many of them, thinking that the world was flat, thought that by sailing west in the "Sea of Darkness" (the Atlantic Ocean) they would reach the "Jumping-off Place" and meet sure death.

Columbus' First Voyage.—Notwithstanding this great obstacle, Columbus, by dint of energy and argument, se-



COLUMBUS LEAVING SPAIN TO DISCOVER A NEW ROUTE TO INDIA

cured sufficient men to man the three sailing vessels. The morning of departure came. Thousands and thousands of people were on hand to wish Godspeed to the Admiral and his men. After invoking the help and protection of their Creator, and after listening to the encouraging cheers and prayers of the multitude, Columbus and his crew sailed from Palos on their memorable voyage.

We can imagine the feelings which filled the breasts of the sailors and those who remained behind. The majority of the Spaniards thought it was a foolhardy enterprise. They looked upon Columbus as an idle dreamer. They had not the slightest notion that he would succeed.

How different were the feelings of Columbus! After nearly seventeen years of patient waiting, he felt that his hopes of finding a new route to India were soon to be realized. He had no misgivings. He was not fearful of the journey. He believed that he was undertaking a great work, not only for the benefit of the kingdom of Spain, but for the greater honor and glory of God.

The Sailors Discontented. — When they had been several weeks at sea, the sailors became discontented. They went to Columbus and begged him to return. The Admiral, however, prevailed on them to continue a little longer. Some weeks later they threatened to throw him overboard if he were not willing to turn back. Once more their leader asked them to sail on for a few days longer. He promised them that, if he did not sight land in the meantime, he would return to Spain.

Fortified with the promise of Columbus, the sailors settled down to work. An occasional sign that they were approaching land gave all on board renewed courage. Finally the long-desired country loomed up in the dis-

tance; and oh, what joy and gladness it brought to the hearts of the sailors! On the next day, October 12, 1492, (according to the Gregorian Calendar, October 21, 1492), Columbus and his men landed on American soil on the island of Guanahani, now called San Salvador.

What do you think was the first act performed by Columbus on the newly-discovered land? Like loyal sons of the Church, he and his men knelt and offered thanks to their Creator, for having inspired and aided them in that wonderful voyage. He then had a large cross erected on the spot where they landed to proclaim to the world that the discoverer of America was a Catholic.

What Columbus Saw. — Having praised and thanked the Lord, Columbus, as he gazed around, saw a vast country filled with flowering plants, beautiful shrubs, numerous trees, and a great variety of strange birds. As he beheld these wonders of nature, he perceived a number of half-clad men slowly approaching.

Columbus, thinking that he had discovered India, called these strange men Indians. He described them in his journal as very poor, dark-skinned, and naked. All seemed to be young and well-built, and to have coarse black hair hanging down behind, but cut short over their foreheads. Their bodies were painted with various colors and in all manner of ways. They carried sticks pointed with fish-bones, and moved their canoes with paddles that looked like shovels.

The Spaniards treated the Indians kindly, and won their good will by giving them presents of glass beads and other knick-knacks. The Indians on their part brought the Spaniards fruit and corn.

The result of the first voyage of Columbus may be thus



COLUMBUS LANDS ON AMERICAN SOIL

summarized: the discovery of San Salvador (one of the Bahama Islands), of Cuba, and the founding of a settlement on the coast of Haiti.

The Return Trip. — On the fourth day of January, 1493, Columbus, leaving a number of his sailors on American soil, returned to Spain. For four or five weeks all went well with his ship. A terrible storm then arose and threatened to shatter the vessel. It lasted so long that Columbus began to give up hope of again seeing Spain. In this state of mind, he wrote on parchments two accounts of his wonderful discovery, sealed them, and addressed them to the King and the Queen of Spain. He then wrapped the parchments in two large cakes of wax, put one of them in a barrel, and cast it into the sea, with the hope that it might reach King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. Shortly afterwards the storm abated, and Columbus and his gallant sailors steered their ship in the direction of Spain, reaching their destination about the middle of March, 1493.

Never was a conquering hero received with greater acclamation. The nobility, who seven months before had considered Columbus an idle dreamer, vied with one another in honoring him; King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella showered on him unusual tokens of esteem.

The Second Voyage. — The King and the Queen of Spain were so pleased with the discovery of Columbus that they appointed him "Admiral of the Ocean Seas" and "Viceroy of the Indies." They ordered him, moreover, to go once more to the New World, so that he might explore the country more thoroughly.

On the first voyage, Columbus found the greatest difficulty in persuading one hundred sailors to accompany him, but on the second, thousands of Spaniards offered

their services. On September 25, 1493, an expedition of seventeen ships and fifteen hundred men set sail from Cadiz, and reached the island of Dominica on the third of November. Columbus did not remain here, but continued his journey till he came to the island of Haiti, where he built the city of Isabella.

A Tour of Exploration. — After a diligent search for gold in the island of Haiti, Columbus and a part of his fleet went on a voyage of discovery. During this expedition he discovered the island of Jamaica, the Isle of Pines, and several smaller islands; he explored a part of Cuba, and then returned to the city of Isabella. Here he contracted a severe illness which lasted for several months.

While Columbus was indisposed, some of the Spanish colonists returned to Spain and circulated evil reports about him. They insinuated that he was a poor governor, and that he had not found the gold which he had promised the King and the Queen of Spain.

On this account, the reception given to him on his second return to Spain was not enthusiastic. The King and the Queen, to their honor be it said, received the Admiral with kindness, but the Spanish people were very much disappointed, because he had not brought them a shipload of gold.

The Third Voyage. — From June 11, 1496, to May 30, 1498, Columbus waited for the fitting out of the third expedition. On the latter date he again sailed from Cadiz. Three of his ships went direct to the city of Isabella, while the other three steered more to the southwest; and on the first of August, 1498, approached the island of Trinidad, near the mouth of the Orinoco. Columbus thereupon coasted Trinidad, discovered Margarita, and saw for the first time the great continent of South America.

After an absence of nearly three years, Columbus returned to the city of Isabella and found many of the people in open rebellion. They did not want to be governed by the "Admiral of the Ocean Seas." He managed, however, to bring about peace, but not before news of the uprising had been sent to Spain.

The Spanish Court sent an officer, Bobadilla, to Haiti to quell the rebellion. When he reached the New World, peace and quiet prevailed among the colonists. In spite of this fact, Bobadilla assumed the governorship of the island, had Columbus and his brothers seized as traitors, chained hand and foot, and put in prison.

The Spanish People Indignant. — Some months later Columbus was taken from prison, placed on board a ship, and carried to Spain. When the vessel arrived at Cadiz, the Spaniards were shocked beyond measure to find their Great Admiral a prisoner in chains.

"What has he done," they exclaimed, "to warrant such barbarous treatment?"

No one could tell.

When Queen Isabella learned how unjustly Columbus had been treated she was highly indignant. She went at once to the King and told him what Bobadilla had done. Thereupon, messengers were sent in great haste to Columbus, telling him how sorry the King and the Queen were, and ordering his release from prison.

The Fourth Voyage. — Though Columbus had failed to find an immense amount of gold, and though many of the Spaniards had lost confidence in him, the King and the Queen of Spain fitted out for him a fourth expedition. On May 9, 1502, he left Spain for the New World. On this voyage he passed by the islands of Haiti and Jamaica



COLUMBUS IN CHAINS

and reached Honduras. After sailing along the coast of this country for some time, Columbus and his men landed at Truxillo on August 17, 1502. From this harbor he went to Nicaragua and the Isthmus of Panama; and then returned to Haiti to prepare for another expedition.

Why Columbus Returned to Spain. — When Admiral Columbus and his men sailed into the harbor of San Domingo, they received such a cool reception from the Governor of Haiti that they returned at once to Spain.

After the trials and disappointments of the past few years, the Great Admiral was sick at heart and a physical wreck,—so much so, that he was not able to visit King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. Soon after, the sad news of the death of the Spanish Queen, his best friend, was brought to him. This was indeed a great blow to the discoverer of the New World. All worldly ambition seemed to pass out of his life, and his thoughts turned to Him Who had made the world out of nothing.

“A few years ago,” said an eye witness, “Columbus was the idol and hero of the world, but now he goes to his grave unwept and unhonored.”

The annals of the city (Valladolid) where he died do not even mention his death. For years his memory was neglected by the people of Europe, and even by the inhabitants of America; but, during the past half century or more, the world has begun to realize the wonderful achievement of that noble and daring Catholic sailor, Christopher Columbus.

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. What do you know about the birthplace of Columbus?
2. Name some traits of character which he had.
3. How was he attracted to the life of a sailor?
4. During his boyhood, what was uppermost in the

minds of the people? 5. What was his plan to solve the problem? 6. Relate the difficulty which he had in finding a rich patron. 7. Why were the sailors afraid to accompany Columbus? 8. Give an account of his departure from Spain. 9. What notions had the sailors regarding the Atlantic Ocean? 10. Why do some histories say that Columbus discovered the New World on October 21, 1492? 11. How did Columbus show his gratitude to God? 12. Mention the strange things he saw in the newly-found land. 13. How did the Spaniards treat the natives? 14. Describe the return trip to Spain. 15. What kind of reception did the Great Admiral receive? 16. Tell what Columbus did on the second voyage. 17. What did he accomplish on his third voyage? 18. Give an account of the rebellion in Haiti, and show how it brought great sadness to Columbus. 19. How did Bobadilla treat Columbus? 20. Did the Spanish people think that he should have been put in chains? 21. What did Columbus accomplish by his fourth voyage? 22. Why did he return so quickly to Spain? 23. Describe the remaining days of the Great Admiral. 24. Why was his memory neglected for hundreds of years? 25. What organization in this country has helped to make people realize the wonderful achievement of Columbus? 26. What incidents in this story show that Columbus was a religious man?

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. Make a large sketch map of the known world at the time of Columbus. Trace on it the course followed by the Discoverer of America on his first voyage to the New World; and indicate the places where he landed.
- II. Spain, Portugal, and Italy had much to do with the discovery and exploration of the New World. Study the geography of these countries; note especially the changes that have taken place in them during the past four hundred years.
- III. Explain to the class how the knowledge of astronomy and map-drawing was useful to Columbus, and show its importance at the present time.
- IV. Read for the class your favorite poem on Columbus, and point out how the author imparts historical knowledge.
- V. Tell why so many of the learned men of Europe were not in favor of the plan to reach India proposed by Columbus.
- VI. Discuss in class: "Do we honor Columbus sufficiently?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Bahama, bà hā'mà	Margarita, mār'gá rê'tà
Bobadilla, bō'vā thēl'yä, bō'bä dīl'ä	Mediterranean, mēd'ī tēr ā'nē ăn
Cadiz, kă'dīz	Nicaragua, nīk'ä rä'gwä
Cristoforo Colombo, krēs tōf'ō rō kō lōm'bō, krīs tō'fū rō	Orinoco, ō'rī nō'kō
kū lōm'bō	Palos, pā'lōs
Dominica, dōm'ī nē'ka	Perez, pā'rāth
Genoa, jēn'ō ä	Portugal, pōr'tū gāl
Gregorian, grē gō'rī ăn	San Domingo, sän dō mīn'gō
Guanahani, gwä'nä hä'nē	San Salvador, sän sāl'vā dōr'
Haiti, hā'tī	Trinidad, trīn'ī dăd'
Honduras, hōn dōō'rās	Truxillo or Trujillo, trōō hēl'yō
isthmus, īs'mūs	Valladolid, vāl yā dō lēd', vāl lă dō līd'
Jamaica, jā mā'kā	Viceroy, vīs'roi

AMERICUS VESPUCIUS ¹

The Name "America." — "What are you reading, John?" asked Mr. Cox.

"I am reading the story of Christopher Columbus, father," replied the boy.

"Can you tell me, my son, why the New World was called 'America'?"

"I do not know, father, but I think I can find out."

"That is the way to talk, John. See what you can do."

The boy thought for a moment. He then looked in his history. After reading a chapter or two, he found what he was looking for in a footnote.

"I have it! I have it!" shouted the delighted boy.

"Why, what is the matter, John?" said the father, looking up from his paper.

"I have just found out, father, why the New World was called 'America.'"

"That is splendid, my boy. Tell me why."

"The New World was called 'America' after a famous Italian navigator, Americus Vespucius."

"But, my son, Americus Vespucius did not discover the New World. This great honor belongs to Columbus. Why then was it not called Columbia?"

"It seems that Americus Vespucius, after making four voyages across the Atlantic, wrote an account of his travels

¹ Amerigo Vespucci is the Italian name.

for a friend in Europe. A German map-maker, having read this account, made up his mind that Americus Vesputius had discovered a new continent; so in his map of the world he called the newly-discovered land America. That is why the New World was not called Columbia."

"That is very good, my son. I am proud of you. Now you can readily see why American children study the life of Americus Vesputius."

His Birth and Education. — On March 9, 1451, Americus Vesputius was born at Florence, Italy. His early educa-



THE BOY VESPUTIUS AND HIS TEACHER

tion was intrusted to the care of his uncle, a Dominican priest. Americus was a diligent student. His school work was to him a pleasure rather than a task. He was so

deeply interested in his studies that he could never understand why some boys and girls did not like school.

When Americus was about twenty-seven years of age, he went to Paris in the employ of the Florentine ambassador. Here he remained for two or three years increasing his store of knowledge. When his father died in 1482, he became a steward in one of the great families in Italy; and, nine years later, he went to Seville, Spain, where he obtained employment in a banking house. Here it was that he learned about the plans of his fellow-countryman, Columbus, to find a water route to India.

Vespucius Goes to Sea. — The successful voyages of Columbus must have filled the heart of Vespucius with a longing to visit the newly-discovered land; for on May 10, 1497, he and a number of sailors left Cadiz in three ships for the New World. About four or five weeks later, they landed on the continent of South America (Guiana or Brazil) and were well received by the natives. What Vespucius and his men did from this time until October 15, 1498, when they returned to Spain, is difficult to say. Some claim that they sailed along the coast of North America as far as the Gulf of St. Lawrence; others hold that they spent the time exploring the islands of the Caribbean Sea and the coast land of South America.

What Vespucius Saw in the New World. — When Vespucius returned to Spain, the people flocked around him to hear about the strange things he had seen during his voyage. You can imagine how interested the dark-eyed Spaniards were when he told them about the red-skinned natives who could run and swim much better than the Europeans, and who could use the bow and arrow with great skill.

“The natives,” he said, “sleep in a kind of large net

made of cotton and suspended in the air. Their dwellings are bell-shaped and are strongly built of large trees fastened together, and covered with palm leaves as a protection against winds and storms. They do not value gold,



WHERE THE INDIANS LIVED AND SLEPT

pearls, or gems. Their riches consist in the beautiful feathers of birds and strings of beads made of fishbones or of white stones. When a person is sick with a fever they bathe him in cold water, compel him to run back and forth for two hours round a rousing fire, and when his body is fairly aglow they lead him off to sleep."

His Second Voyage. —

After telling the people of Spain about these and many other things which he had seen in the New World, Vespuceius again left Cadiz in May, 1499, directed his course to Cape Verde, crossed the equator, and sighted land off the coast of Brazil. He then proceeded in a northerly direction, coasted the Guianas, discovered Cape St. Augustine and the Amazon River, made observations of the Southern Cross, and returned to Spain in September, 1500.

Vespucius Goes to Portugal. — After returning from his second voyage something must have happened to cause Vespuceius to leave Spain and to go to Portugal. Perhaps the Portuguese King offered him more compensation for his services. At any rate, on May 14, 1501, he sailed under

the auspices of the King of Portugal on his third voyage of discovery. Some months later the expedition landed in the New World near where the city of Bahia now stands. After a short rest here, the ships were turned to the south and sailed along the coast for a great distance. Vespucci and his men then returned to Portugal, and received a great reception from the King and his people.

His Last Voyages. — On his fourth voyage, which started June 10, 1503, Vespucci steered towards the Bay of All Saints in Brazil. At Cape Frio he found an abundance of fine wood. With this he filled his ships, sailed to the south as far as the Rio de la Plata, and returned to Portugal.

It is almost certain that he made a fifth voyage, and that he visited the Gulf of Darien and the surrounding country; but we find no account of this in his writings.

After his last trans-Atlantic voyage, Vespucci returned to Spain in 1505, because his merits and services were not fully appreciated by the King of Portugal; and, to the honor of the Spanish monarch be it said, he was made chief pilot, — a position which he held till his death on February 22, 1512.

Some writers have accused Vespucci of trying to rob Columbus of the glory of having discovered the New World. This, however, is unfair to the Florentine navigator, because a German map-maker is responsible for giving the name "America" to the newly-found continent of South America, and this name was afterwards given to North America.

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. Explain how the name "America" was given to the New World.
2. What do you know about the birthplace of Americus Vespucci?
3. Tell about his early education.
4. In what work did he engage

before he became a navigator? 5. How did he become acquainted with Columbus? 6. Mention the things he saw in the New World. 7. What did Vespucci accomplish by his second voyage? 8. Why did he leave Spain to enter the service of the King of Portugal? 9. What discoveries did he make on his third and fourth voyages? 10. How could you prove that the Portuguese King did not appreciate the work of Vespucci? 11. In what way did the King of Spain reward his services? 12. Prove that Vespucci did not try to rob Columbus of the honor of discovering the New World.

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. It will help you to remember the story of Americus Vespucci if you locate on the map of the world Lisbon, Cadiz, the Cape Verde Islands, Brazil, the Guianas, the Amazon River, and Cape Frio.
- II. Find out what you can about brazil-wood, and note especially its different uses.
- III. Tell what you know about the equator; mention the countries through which it passes; and discuss the temperature of these places.
- IV. Discuss in class: "Did Vespucci reach the New World before John Cabot?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Amazon, ăm'ă zôn	Darien, dă'rī ěn'
Americus Vespucci (Latin), ă mēr'ī kŭs vĕs pōō'shŭs	European, ū'rō pĕ'an
Amerigo Vespucci (Italian), ă'mă rĕ'gō vĕs pōōt'chĕ	Florentine, flōr'ěn tĕn — tĭn
Augustine, ô'gŭs tĕn' — tĭn'	Frio, frĕ'ō
Bahia, bă ē'ă	Guiana, gĕ ā'nă
Brazil, bră zĭl'	Portuguese, pōr'tŭ gĕz' — gĕs'
Caribbean, kăr'ī bĕ'ăn	Rio de La Plata, rĕ'ō dă lă plă'tă
	Seville, sĕ vĭl'
	Verde, vŭrd

JOHN CABOT

His Early Life. — Some years ago I had the good fortune to visit the fair land of Italy. While in that country I spent several days in the city of Genoa, the birthplace of John Cabot, the great navigator and discoverer of the mainland of North America.

I tried in every possible way to find out something about his early life: I inquired among the people, I talked with many school-teachers, and I visited the public library; but I got no definite information.

Though I failed to obtain historical facts about Cabot's youth, I heard a number of legendary stories which have been associated with his name. Some of these told about his childhood, the games he played, and the things that interested him most. Others gave an account of his school days, and the eagerness with which he studied geography, history, and navigation. Still others made known the many hours that he spent reading the thrilling account of the East handed down to posterity by the famous Italian traveler, Marco Polo. All these, however, are not to our purpose.

History tells us that John Cabot, the celebrated discoverer of the mainland of North America, was born during the first half of the fifteenth century in the city of Genoa. Some years later, in 1461, he removed to Venice, where he began an eventful career as a seaman and a trader.

In those days the city of Venice carried on an extensive

trade with Asiatic countries, such as India, China, and Japan. The spices, gold, and precious stones from these nations were brought to Europe partly by land and partly by sea. When the Turks rendered it almost impossible for Europeans to travel through Asia, every sailor and trader set to work to find a water route to the East.



JOHN CABOT AS A BOY

A Wonderful Island. — In the “Travels of Marco Polo,” we read: “Cipango is an island towards the East about 1500 miles from Europe. The people of this land are white and civilized. I can tell you, the quantity of gold there is endless, for the people find it in their own island, and the King of the place does not allow it to be exported. Few merchants, moreover, visit the country, because it is

so far from the mainland. Thus it happens that gold is abundant there beyond measure.

“I will tell you a wonderful thing about the residence of the Lord of Cipango. His palace is roofed with gold, the corridors and the floors of the different rooms are paved with gold slabs two fingers thick, and the windows are also made of gold: so that altogether the richness of this building is beyond belief. The island has, moreover, an abundance of pearls of a rose color, and large quantities of other precious stones.”

After reading this and other glowing accounts of the East, every sailor and trader could not help being desirous of finding a water route to the rich countries of Asia.

Another incident, moreover, had a great influence in bringing about Cabot's voyage of discovery. He had heard of Christopher Columbus' journey across the Atlantic Ocean in the service of the King and the Queen of Spain. He had read of his wonderful discovery. What was to prevent him from making as daring a voyage as his fellow-countryman, Columbus? He felt that he knew just as much as Columbus, and that his knowledge of navigation was as great, if not greater.

How Cabot Set to Work. — Prompted by these and other considerations, Cabot, who was then living in England, went to see King Henry VII, and obtained his permission “to seek out, discover, and find whatsoever islands, countries, regions, or provinces, which before this time have been unknown to all Christians.”

Cabot then hastened back to Bristol, chartered a small sailing vessel, the *Matthew*, and with a crew of eighteen hardy and courageous sailors, embarked at that port in May, 1497.

Strange as it may appear, there was no particular demonstration of the people to mark the event. The object of Cabot's voyage may not have been publicly known.

We can imagine the feelings which filled the breasts of the sailors aboard the *Matthew*. How they must have doubted the prudence of sailing into the "Sea of Darkness"! What misgivings they must have had as to the outcome of the expedition! But the great courage and daring spirit of John Cabot counteracted all this. He acted as if he were sure of reaching the shores of Asia.

The Result of His Voyage. — After a long, adventurous voyage of fifty days, Cabot reached the mainland of the North American continent about June, 1497. What great joy must have filled his heart as he beheld a vast country in the distance (Cape Breton or Labrador)! How eager he must have been to make a landing! Surely he must have offered up a fervent prayer of thanksgiving to his Creator.

After going ashore, Cabot's first act was to erect a large cross from which were unfurled the flag of England, and the flag of St. Mark, the patron saint of Venice. He then looked around to see if he could find any evidence that the place was inhabited. As a result of his observations, he found snares set to catch wild animals. This showed him that people lived in the territory.

Having thus taken possession of the country in the name of the King of England, Cabot began his homeward journey with all haste, and reached the port of Bristol in August, 1497.

His Royal Reception. — It is natural to suppose that John Cabot, after landing in England, went at once to King Henry VII and told him about the success of his under-

takings. The English King was so pleased with his discovery that he gave orders for another voyage to start early in the following year, 1498.

When the news of Cabot's arrival in Bristol became generally known, there was great rejoicing among all classes of people; for they felt that England had "gained a part of Asia without a stroke of the sword." The merchants and traders were overjoyed at the prospect of carrying on business with a country where gold, gems, and aromatic spices were to be found.

There is hardly a doubt but that Cabot thought he had discovered a part of China, or as it was called at that time the "Territory of the Grand Khan." He was sure that the abundance of gold and precious stones which Marco Polo had told about would soon be brought back to England.

While waiting for the second voyage, Cabot and his hardy sailors had time to tell the people of England about the terrible hardships which they underwent in their daring trip across the Atlantic, and about some of the wonderful things they had seen in the newly found land. They reported that the soil was fertile and the climate temperate, that redwood grew there, and that the surrounding sea was full of fish which could be caught not only with nets but with baskets.

The Second Voyage. — Some time in the first half of the year 1498, Cabot, in command of five ships and about three hundred men, set sail from Bristol on a second expedition. The vessels at first steered to the north and then to the west. On reaching the American coast somewhere near Newfoundland, Cabot wished to go farther north; but the sailors, seeing the large bodies of ice found in the ocean thereabouts, were afraid. It is said that he then sailed to

the south, skirting the Atlantic coast of North America as far as Cape Hatteras.

After this no one seems to know what happened to the expedition. We cannot say for certain that it returned to England ; neither can we affirm that the ships were lost at sea.

His Memory Forgotten. — For many years after Cabot's voyages, his memory was almost forgotten. This accounts in a measure for the scanty amount of facts of his early life and his unaccountable death which history possesses.

The people of his age regarded a voyage of exploration and discovery purely as a business venture. It can be truly said that if this great Italian sailor had brought back to England a shipload of gold, or if he had procured for the English people a cargo of precious stones, his name would have been heralded in the history of all times as one of the greatest discoverers and navigators of the world. The mere finding of a new country, however, was hardly worth mentioning.

No matter what has been thought or written about the great expeditions of John Cabot, every inhabitant of North America owes him a debt of gratitude for the daring voyages which he made to our continent.

Columbus and Cabot. — We do not wish to take away one iota of the glory which rightfully belongs to Columbus. He, it is true, showed the way to cross the Atlantic, but Cabot first landed on the mainland of North America. It makes no difference to us under what auspices these discoveries were made. Columbus sailed under the Spanish flag, while Cabot flew the English flag. Both of these men were capable seamen. They were gifted with logical minds ; and they did their own thinking. They surmounted all obstacles and they knew no such thing as fear. They were

at heart practical Catholics and, when they landed on the newly found countries of Central and North America, they erected the cross of Jesus Christ as a token of their religious belief.

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. What is known of the youthful days of John Cabot? 2. Describe the great city of Venice. 3. What did Marco Polo tell us regarding Cipango? 4. How did John Cabot succeed in getting his ship ready? 5. Where did he make a landing and what did he do? 6. Why did the people of England rejoice? 7. Mention a few things that he saw on the first voyage. 8. Give an idea of the second voyage and the course followed. 9. What prevented Cabot going farther north than Newfoundland? 10. What part of the Atlantic coast did he explore? 11. What happened to the expedition? 12. Did a knowledge of geography have anything to do with the voyage of Cabot? 13. Show that all Americans owe a debt of gratitude to Cabot. 14. Compare the labors of Cabot with those of Columbus and Vesputius.

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. Venice and Genoa were once the great commercial centers of Europe, and even at the present time they are among the most interesting cities of the world. Study the history of these two important municipalities.
- II. To study history well it is necessary to know something about the various countries mentioned in the text. Be prepared then to tell the class about India, China, Japan, England, Labrador, and Newfoundland.
- III. Read about Marco Polo, Sir John Mandeville, Prince Henry, the Navigator, and Toscanelli, and tell what, in your opinion, made them famous.
- IV. Prepare a brief account of the life of St. Mark, the patron saint of Venice, with a view of telling the class about him.
- V. Make drawings of the American Flag, the English Flag, and the Italian Flag, and be ready to contrast them.
- VI. Discuss in class: "Did Cabot's discoveries give England a claim to North America?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

aromatic, ăr'ô măt'ík

Asiatic, ā'shī ăt'ík

auspices, ôs'pĩ sěz

Bristol, brīs'tŭl

Cipango, sī pǎŋ'gō

Hatteras, hăt'ěr ąs

iota, ī ō'tà

Khan, kăn, kăn

Labrador, lăb'ră dôr'

legendary, lěj'ěn dă rĩ

Marco Polo, măr'kō pō'lō

Newfoundland, nŭ'fŭnd lănd'

Sebastian, să bās'tyăn'

Venice, vĕn'is

BALBOA

His Birth. — Seventeen years before the discovery of America by Columbus, there was born, in Spain, a child who was destined to engrave his name on the pages of history as one of the bravest and most heroic navigators of all times. This boy was Vasco Nuñez de Balboa, the courageous discoverer of the Pacific Ocean.

Descended from an honorable family, Balboa received only an ordinary education; for, at an early age, he entered the service of a Spanish nobleman.

Balboa Crosses the Atlantic. — At the age of twenty-five, in the year 1500, Balboa decided that he would seek his fortune in the New World. Accordingly he joined an expedition for the shores of America. After a long and perilous voyage, he landed at Darien. Here the commander and his men made friends of the natives, and collected a large amount of gold and pearls. When these had been placed on board, they found that the ships had been injured by a worm which abounds in the water of the Torrid Zone.

Having repaired the vessels as best they could, they embarked for Spain; but, before they had gone very far, they were obliged to cast anchor at a small island near San Domingo. As soon as the necessary repairs had been made, the vessels again sailed for Spain. This time a terrific gale drove them back to port. While waiting for favorable weather, the Spaniards made a thorough ex-

amination of the worm-eaten vessels, and found them entirely unsafe to cross the Atlantic.

Balboa Becomes a Farmer. — Some time later, other ships were fitted out to carry the gold and pearls to Spain. Balboa, however, did not go back to his native land, but turned his attention to farming. Unfortunately his adventurous nature was not suited to the ordinary work of a farmer. Instead of making money at the business, he fell into debt. This brought on restlessness and discouragement. Realizing that something had to be done, he determined to embark on another voyage of discovery and exploration.

Fearing lest the people to whom he owed money would have him cast into prison were he to leave the neighborhood, Balboa placed himself in a barrel which was carried on board a ship just as she was about to sail. When the vessel was some distance from the shore, Balboa, to the great astonishment of those on board, came forth from his hiding-place. At first the Captain was very angry and threatened to put him off on the first uninhabited island; but, when Balboa made himself useful, the Captain allowed him to remain.

Balboa Offers a Suggestion. — The first landing of the expedition was made at San Sebastian. Here the Indians attacked the Spaniards with the utmost fury, and forced them to return to their ships. This incident was a source of discouragement to Captain Enciso. Just then Balboa went to the Captain, and told him of a place in Darien where the natives were well disposed, and where an abundance of pearls and gold could be easily secured. This timely information buoyed up the spirits of the Spaniards. Accordingly, with light hearts they set sail for the spot.



BALBOA TRYING TO ESCAPE

Within a short distance of their destination they landed. Contrary to their expectations, they were attacked by five hundred warlike natives; but the bows and arrows of the Indians were no match for the firearms of the Spaniards. The natives were thus put to flight after a short contest; and when Captain Enciso entered the village, he found an abundance of provisions and a large quantity of gold.

In the absence of the royal governor, he took command of the colony. He was in many ways unfitted for the office. He was too strict. He did not take into account the men with whom he had to deal. Consequently, he was soon afterward deposed, and Balboa became governor.

Balboa Leads an Expedition to Coyba. — Guided by two Spaniards who had been treated very kindly by Careta, the Indian chief of Coyba, Balboa led an expedition to that part of the country. The native chief welcomed the Spaniards most heartily. Balboa then asked him for provisions. The latter said that he had none to spare.

“Don’t believe him,” said one of the Spaniards, “I know that he is not telling the truth.”

Pretending that they were satisfied with the chief’s answer, the Europeans left the village. That very night, when the Indians were asleep, they returned, plundered the little town, killed many of the natives, and took prisoner the chief, his wife, and children.

This action of the Spaniards frightened the chief. He appealed to Balboa for mercy, and said that he was willing to enter into a treaty of peace and friendship with the white men. The Spanish commander was only too willing to sign the treaty and earn the good will of the natives. With the help of Careta, Balboa and his men then explored

the neighboring country and made friends of the Indians, or conquered them, if they resisted the commander's authority.

A Quarrel about Gold. — In their tours of exploration, the Spaniards obtained large quantities of gold and other metals from the natives. On one occasion, as Balboa was dividing the spoils among his men, a quarrel ensued regarding the proper share to be given to each. Careta's son, who happened to be looking on, said :

“Why do you quarrel about such a trifle? I can tell you about a place where gold is so plentiful that the natives eat their food out of golden vessels.”

The Spaniards listened with rapt attention to the Indian. They did not wish to miss a word that he said. The chief's son then continued :

“This place is situated beyond high and rocky mountains very difficult to cross. When you reach there, you will find a vast amount of gold.”

Balboa Undertakes the Journey. — Guided by a number of Indians, Balboa and his followers set out for the much-desired country. On their way thither, they met an Indian chief who thought that he and his warriors could prevent them from crossing his territory. However, the smoke and the report of the Spanish guns soon terrified the natives, who scampered off to the mountains, leaving a large amount of gold and jewels to the Spaniards.

Delighted with the result of their recent encounter, the Spaniards began to climb the high mountain. When they were nearing the highest peak, Balboa ordered his men to rest while he ascended alone. Imagine how his heart must have beat with joy when he saw for the first time the vast Pacific Ocean. Being a practical Catholic, he knelt

and thanked Almighty God for having allowed him to make such a wonderful discovery.

Balboa then beckoned to his men to ascend and witness the grand sight. Their delight knew no bounds. As soon as all had enjoyed the beauty of the scene, the Catholic priest who accompanied the party chanted the opening



BALBOA DISCOVERS THE PACIFIC OCEAN

words of the *Te Deum*. This was the signal for all to sing that beautiful and inspiring hymn of praise and thanksgiving. Balboa subsequently ordered a large tree to be cut down, made into a cross, and erected on the very spot where he first saw the Pacific Ocean.

Balboa Takes Possession of the Pacific Ocean. — The Spaniards then went down the mountain on the opposite side. As they approached the shore, an Indian chief, with a large number of warriors, attacked the white men. After the Spaniards had fired their guns and had given the bloodhounds their liberty, the natives begged for mercy. They did more: they brought generous presents of gold to the explorers.

When Balboa and his followers reached the Pacific, the tide had receded. Under the shade of a large tree, they waited for its return. As the waves came rushing towards them, Balboa, with a sword in one hand and a banner of the Blessed Virgin in the other, waded knee-deep into the water, and took possession of that vast ocean in the name of the King and the Queen of Spain.

Balboa Explores a Neighboring Island. — Wishing to secure a larger supply of provisions, gold, and pearls, Balboa and his men decided to explore a neighboring island. The Indians tried to dissuade them. They told them that the sea thereabout was especially dangerous. The Spanish sailors, however, paid no attention to their counsel, but started at once in frail canoes. All day long they were tossed about by the driving wind and waves. Toward evening the storm became less violent, and they landed on the island. Having fastened their canoes to a tree near the shore, the Spaniards took a much needed rest. They were soon afterwards awakened by the roaring of the waves and the whistling of the wind. They then perceived that the rolling tide was gradually climbing up the sides of the island. To avoid drowning, they climbed to the highest part, but, as they did so, the water followed them.

The Spaniards were thoroughly frightened. Their pre-

dicament reminded them of the Flood; and they wondered what was going to become of them. They were already standing in water knee-deep. They called upon the Saviour to come to their assistance, and they implored the Blessed Virgin to save them from a watery grave. Just then the water began to abate. When they were able to get to their canoes, they left the island without delay and returned to the mainland.

In Search of Gold and Pearls. — Balboa continued his explorations of the surrounding country, and succeeded in making friends of the Indian chiefs, and in obtaining from them generous presents of gold and pearls. At last the Spaniards had so much gold and other valuables that they could carry only a small amount of provisions. On this account they were on more than one occasion threatened with starvation on their homeward march.

To be brief, the expedition, after suffering many hardships, landed at Santa Maria on January 19, 1514. Every Spaniard in the town turned out to receive Balboa and his party; and, when the colonists saw that there was a large amount of gold and other precious metals on board, they were delighted beyond measure.

The Enemies of Balboa at Work. — When Captain Enciso returned to Spain, he did everything in his power to blacken the character of Balboa; and, what is more to be regretted, he succeeded in doing so. The result was that the Spanish King was very much displeased with the discoverer of the Pacific Ocean, and sent out a new governor to take his place.

No sooner had he done so than a ship loaded with gold and pearls arrived in Spain. When the Spanish King read the report which Balboa had sent him, and realized that he

had discovered a new ocean, and when he saw the large quantity of gold and pearls sent to him by the Governor of Darien, he was deeply grieved for having believed the calumnies of Captain Enciso. He thereupon gave orders to his counselors to think of some way in which Balboa could be sufficiently rewarded for his great work.

Davila Arrives in America. — In June, 1514, the new governor, Davila, arrived at Darien. It was a great surprise to the colonists. They were satisfied with Balboa, and they saw no reason why he should have been cast aside. In fact they desired to take up arms to prevent the new governor from landing. Balboa, however, persuaded them not to do so.

The new governor, desiring to have a true account of the condition of the colony, had a long conference with Balboa. When the latter had given him all the information he needed, Davila took every occasion to show his dislike for Balboa. The Governor's jealousy became so intense that the discoverer of the Pacific was thrown into prison and brought to trial on a framed-up charge; and, had it not been for the influence of the Bishop of Darien, he would have been declared guilty.

The Beginning of the End. — Governor Davila was a mean, jealous man, who could not bear to have in his sight such a popular hero as Balboa. He proposed to send him back to Spain, but his counselors said that such a course would serve merely to call special attention to the true greatness of the discoverer of the Pacific.

After a few months the King of Spain appointed Balboa Lieutenant-Governor of the Southern Sea and Governor of the province of Panama and Coyba. These new honors conferred on Balboa served to make Davila more spiteful.

The Governor soon found out that the people of the colony thought much more of Balboa than they did of himself. This of course added to his fears. The Bishop of Darien once more came to the rescue. He advised Governor Davila to give his daughter in marriage to Balboa, and thus end the bitter feeling that existed between himself and his fellow countryman. As Davila thought well of the Bishop's advice, he sent for Balboa, invited him to become his son-in-law, and to assist in the government of the colony.

A Light in the Shadow. — The recent action of the Governor brought a ray of hope to the heart of Balboa. He was, moreover, given permission to build some vessels for another voyage to the Pacific Ocean. Before he was ready to sail, it was rumored that a new governor had been appointed in place of Davila. Wishing to ascertain how much truth there was in what he had heard, he sent one of his trusted followers to the seat of government in the colony.

The man whom Balboa sent to find out whether there was any truth in the rumor turned out to be his worst enemy. Instead of doing the work for which he was sent, he went directly to Governor Davila and gave him a false impression regarding the plans of Balboa. He insinuated that the Governor's son-in-law was planning and scheming to establish a colony of his own. These false accusations and one or two other trifling matters caused Balboa to be recalled and placed in prison to await trial.

Balboa Asserts His Innocence. — When Governor Davila visited Balboa in prison and accused him of trying to throw off the authority of the Spanish King, the discoverer of the Pacific replied with indignation: "If I were guilty, what

would have induced me to come here and place myself in your hands? If I had intended to rebel against the King, what prevented me from doing so? I had four ships ready to sail and an open sea before me. What had I to do but to spread sail and press forward? There was no doubt but that I might find a land, whether rich or poor, which would furnish enough for me and mine, where I should have been entirely free from your control. Knowing that I was innocent, however, I came here the moment you sent for me. What is my reward? Slander, insult, chains."

Balboa Found Guilty. — Balboa's protest had no good effect on the Governor. It served only to embitter him



BALBOA LED TO EXECUTION

against his son-in-law. In due time the trial began. Everything that jealous and envious minds could invent was brought against the discoverer. At length he was

declared guilty; but it was recommended that he should be treated mercifully on account of the great work that he had done.

Davila, however, would not listen to the plea for mercy. He said: "If Balboa has deserved death, he shall die." The colonists almost to a man believed that he was not guilty, and that the witnesses had not proved the charge. Yet they were afraid to say a good word for their former leader lest they should share his sad fate.

The Morning of the Execution. — The awful morning arrived. Balboa was led to the place of execution. Before him walked the town crier, shouting: "This is the punishment soon to be inflicted by the command of the Spanish King and his lieutenant, Governor Davila, on this man for his traitorous conduct toward the Crown."

These false words stung Balboa to the quick. In his indignation he exclaimed: "The charge is false; never did such a crime enter my mind. I have always served my King with truth and loyalty, and I have tried to enlarge his dominions."

At the place of execution the Catholic priest, after giving Balboa the ministrations of the Church, took leave of him just before he ascended the scaffold. Then the discoverer of the Pacific, with the courage and fortitude of an innocent man, laid his head upon the block for the cruel blows of the executioner.

Thus died, in the prime of life, Balboa, one of the greatest explorers of America.

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. Give an account of the early years of Balboa. 2. On what part of America did he first land? 3. What prevented the Spaniards from carrying to Spain the gold and pearls they found at Darien?

4. What was Balboa's experience as a farmer? 5. How did he escape his creditors? 6. Tell how the Spaniards entered Darien. 7. Would you have liked to live under Captain Enciso as governor of Darien? 8. How did Balboa conquer the Indian chief, Careta? 9. When the Spaniards quarreled about their share of gold, what did Careta's son say to them? 10. Describe Balboa's progress towards the Pacific Ocean. 11. In what way did he show that he was a Catholic? 12. Give an account of his taking possession of the Pacific Ocean. 13. Relate Balboa's experience on a neighboring island. 14. How did he succeed in getting more gold than he and his men could carry? 15. What did Captain Enciso do when he returned to Spain? 16. How did the people receive the new Governor, Davila? 17. What treatment did Balboa receive from him? 18. What good deed was performed by the Bishop of Darien? 19. State the false accusations that were brought against Balboa by his would-be friend. 20. Give Balboa's reply. 21. Tell the outcome of the trial. 22. Describe what took place the morning of the execution.

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. Every young American is undoubtedly proud of the Panama Canal, and the part which the United States had in building it. Study the geography and history of Darien or Panama, and write for class work a short account of the history of the Panama Canal.
- II. Compare the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific in regard to size, temperature, and ocean currents.
- III. Learn all you can about the *Te Deum*, and note especially when and why it is sung or recited.
- IV. Read the account of the Flood found in the sixth chapter of Genesis, and state what incident in the foregoing story recalls it to mind.
- V. Discuss in class: "Who was more responsible for the execution of Balboa, — Governor Davila, or the Spanish King who sent him to supersede Balboa?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Careta, kār ā'tā

Coyba, koi'bā

Davila, dā'vē lā

Enciso, ěn thē'sō

Te Deum, tā dā'ŭm

Vasco Nuñez de Balboa, vās'kō

nōon'yāth dā bāl bō'ā

THE FIRST PRIEST ORDAINED IN AMERICA

Father Las Casas. — If you look at the map of Spain, you will notice that the once-famous city of Seville is situated on the Guadalquivir River, about fifty miles from the Atlantic Ocean. In this once-renowned commercial center, in the year 1474, was born the first priest ordained in America, the Rev. Bartholomew Las Casas.

This child, who in later years became the Protector of the Indians of America, was descended from a noble family. His education appears to have been received in the schools of his native city and at the famous University of Salamanca.

History tells us very little about the youthful days of Las Casas. He was doubtless, like many other children of his native country, a lover of flowers and manly sports. At school he was noted for his serious manner and for his unusual application to study.

The Discovery of America. — When Las Casas had reached the age of eighteen or nineteen, the great Christopher Columbus returned to Spain. The success of his daring voyage must have fired the heart of the young Spanish nobleman for, after graduating with high honors from the University of Salamanca, he decided to visit the New World. Accordingly he left his native land in 1502, and arrived with twenty-five hundred of his fellow countrymen a few months later at San Domingo.

When Las Casas had finished his course at Salamanca, he was admitted to the bar, that is, he was permitted to practice law; but there is nothing to show that he fol-



FATHER LAS CASAS, THE DEFENDER OF THE INDIANS

lowed this calling in the New World. After landing on the American continent, he must have used one of the three prevalent ways of making a living: (1) Bartering trinkets with the Indians for their gold, (2) mining, or (3) farming.

Raised to the Priesthood. — Judging from the character of Las Casas, we should say that from the year 1502 to 1510 he was either a farmer or a miner. During this time he must have given some thought to the question of his vocation; for, toward the end of 1510, he was raised to the priesthood. This first ordination in the New World was the occasion of general rejoicing among the American colonists. Little did they think that Father Las Casas would in a few years become the Protector of the Indians and the fearless accuser of unscrupulous Spaniards.

It must be borne in mind that many of the Spaniards who accompanied Columbus on his voyages to America were money-making adventurers who cared little or nothing for the Christianizing of the Indians. When these Europeans found gold in many of the islands, the natives were compelled to work for them in the mines. Worse than this, groups of irresponsible Spaniards sometimes plundered the supplies of the Indians and carried off their women and children.

The natives, who at first regarded the white men as people who came from heaven, soon began to look upon them as the worst kind of persecutors; and, in the course of time, energetic efforts were made to expel the pale-faces from the West Indies.

A Dreadful Practice. — It was about this time that bloodhounds were used by the Spaniards to terrorize and to bring the Indians to terms. On one occasion twenty of these ferocious animals were let loose like wolves among a flock of lambs, and hundreds of the natives were torn to

pieces. In this shocking manner, the inhabitants in some of the islands were forced to yield to the white men. Then it was that tributes of gold were exacted from the Indians. Those who could not pay deserted their farms and mines and fled to the mountains.

Many of the first Spanish settlers in America, as we have already said, were "money mad." In addition to this,



THE BLOODHOUNDS ATTACKING THE INDIANS

they were lazy. Some of them preferred hunger to work. Consequently the Europeans saw the need of pressing the natives into service. At their urgent request, Columbus asked the Spanish government to allow him to divide the Indians of the different islands among the Spanish settlers. Spain granted the favor, and the Indians became the slaves of the white men.

In justice to Columbus, it must be said that he did not intend that this allotment of the Indians should last more than a few years; but his successors, Bobadilla and Ovando, made the slavery of the Indians lawful.

The Franciscans and the Dominicans. — The Franciscans have the honor of being the first Religious Order to arrive in the New World in 1493: three or four secular priests came at the same time. Seventeen years later, in 1510, three Dominican Fathers landed at San Domingo, and here founded their first community in America. Their influence in the New World was soon felt. Many little abuses which had crept into the Spaniards' way of living were soon stamped out; but the worst abuse of all, the enslaving of the Indians, was not corrected. The followers of St. Dominic felt that some steps should be taken to better the condition of the natives. After giving the subject much thought, it was decided that one of the Fathers should preach a special sermon on the cruel and barbarous treatment of the Indians by some Spaniards.

A Memorable Sermon. — In due time the sermon was written, read by the Fathers, and then signed by each. All the Spaniards, from the Governor down, were invited to be present at the Dominican church on the first Sunday of Lent, 1511.

This particular day came and the church was thronged with Spaniards, who expected to hear some startling news or some pleasant surprise. The surprise came, but it was anything but pleasant, for the preacher accused many of the Spaniards of being unjust, cruel, and barbarous.

Taking for his text, "I am the voice of One crying in the wilderness," Father Montesino said:

"I ascend this pulpit to let you know that I am the voice of Christ crying in the wilderness of this island. Hence it is meet that you listen to my words with no ordinary attention, but with all the power of your souls and your five senses.

“Tell me, with what right and with what justice do you subject the Indians to so cruel and so horrible a slavery? With what authority do you wage your abominable wars against these people, — many of whom you have slaughtered? Why do you overburden them with work, and why do you not always give them sufficient food to keep them from starving? Nay, why do you kill them daily with excessive labor that they may bring you gold? What steps have you taken to have them know God, their Creator, to be baptized, to hear Mass on Sundays and Holy-days? Are you not bound to love them as yourselves? Rest assured that in the state in which many of you are now living, you can no more save your souls than the Moors or the Jews who do not believe in Jesus Christ.”

The Result of the Sermon. — On that very afternoon the Spaniards of San Domingo sent a deputation to the Dominican Fathers, demanding that the preacher should on the next Sunday withdraw his insulting words. When the superior of the Dominicans would not consent to their request, the Spaniards threatened that dire punishment would be meted out to the preacher.

On the following Sunday Father Montesino, nothing daunted, preached a still more severe sermon against the unjust slavery of the Indians. He proved that everything he said in his first sermon was true; and he asserted that the Spaniards' treatment of the Indians was crying to heaven for vengeance.

Las Casas as Chaplain. — Such was the deplorable condition of the Indians when Las Casas was ordained a priest in the year 1510. A few months after his ordination, the Governor of Cuba invited him to be chaplain of his army. In this trying and difficult position, Father Las Casas, by

his kindness and thoughtfulness, won the respect and confidence of the Indians.

After spending about two years as chaplain of the army in Cuba, Father Las Casas was awarded one of the best sections of the island, and the Indians of the neighborhood to be used as slaves. A few years later he gave up this property, because he realized that the slavery of the Indians was unjust, and that he, a priest of God, should not grow rich on slave labor. The Governor of the island tried to dissuade him, but it was useless. Father Las Casas had made up his mind to spend the rest of his life protecting, defending, and Christianizing the Indians of America.

Las Casas Calls on the King. — After a few months Father Las Casas went to Spain to appeal directly to King Ferdinand in behalf of the Indians. Here he found many obstacles. The Spanish settlers in America had powerful friends at court. These tried in every way to counteract the words of Las Casas. They accused him of being a born disturber who thought more of the Indians than he did of his fellow countrymen. Notwithstanding their calumnies, Father Las Casas gained his point. He was made the official Protector of the Indians in America, and three Fathers of St. Jerome were appointed commissioners to look into the question of Indian slavery.

Before leaving for America, the three commissioners were influenced more or less by the friends of the Spanish colonists. When they reached their destination additional pressure was brought to bear on them. As a result, they were only half-hearted in their aid to better the condition of the Indians. Father Las Casas left no one in doubt as to the object of his mission. He boldly told the Spanish

officials in the New World that it was the wish of the King that the natives should not be kept in slavery.

The Spanish officials, however, were not willing to free their slaves. Such a course would interfere with their money-making schemes. The three commissioners seemed to be wavering as to whether the measure was necessary. In this predicament the Protector of the Indians went again to Spain to let the King know the real state of affairs in the New World.

His Work at the Spanish Court. — During the following five years Father Las Casas tried to have more stringent laws passed to better the condition of the Indians. The colonists in America, too, had their representative at the Spanish Court. Nevertheless, the Protector of the Indians was successful: the Fathers of St. Jerome were recalled, and Las Casas' scheme of colonization approved.

Toward the end of the year 1520, Father Las Casas sailed for the New World and a few weeks later arrived at Porto Rico. Previous to his landing, a number of Spaniards had come to the Island to procure some Indian slaves. Owing to the good work of the Dominicans, the native Indians treated the Spaniards kindly; but when the Europeans seized and carried into captivity a number of the natives, the anger of the Indians knew no bounds. Every white person whom they could seize was put to death. On this account, Father Las Casas went to San Domingo. Here the royal decrees were published, but unfortunately they were never enforced by the Spanish officials.

Las Casas Becomes a Dominican. — Very much disappointed and discouraged, Father Las Casas betook himself to the Dominican convent. After some weeks spent in prayer, he entered the Dominican Order in 1521. The

succeeding four or five years were spent in making his novitiate. This period of study and prayer served to fit him for the very onerous duties which later fell to his lot.

It happened that there was one Indian chief on the island of Hispaniola (now called Haiti) who had never been conquered by the Spanish forces. For ten years he and his followers had lived in the hills and mountains of this country in spite of the Spaniards. They did more: they often put the soldiers of Spain to flight.

In the year 1529, one of the Spanish captains was ordered to crush the defiant chief. Before attempting to do so, he went to Father Las Casas and asked him to use his influence in pacifying these people. The Protector of the Indians thereupon prevailed on the natives to cease their warfare on the white men and to pledge allegiance to the King of Spain.

The Conquest of Peru. — About the year 1530 Francisco Pizarro received permission from the Spanish Crown to conquer the inhabitants of Peru. When Father Las Casas heard what Pizarro intended to do, he went immediately to Spain and obtained a decree forbidding any one to treat the natives of Peru as unjustly as those of the West Indies. With great haste Father Las Casas returned to America, and set out for a place near Guayaquil where Pizarro was encamped. Without fear or trembling he presented the decree to the Spanish leader. Thereupon all the officers and soldiers promised to obey the royal commands. Las Casas then returned to Nicaragua where a Dominican convent was built.

Father Las Casas and two or three other Dominicans went to Guatemala about 1535 to begin missionary work among the inhabitants of that country. Not long after-

ward, orders came from the King of Spain that everything should be done to convert the Indians to Christianity. The Spanish colonists argued that it was impossible to Christianize the natives in a peaceful manner; but Father Las Casas was convinced that it could be done. The Governor of Guatemala accordingly permitted the Dominicans to undertake the work.

Contrary to the opinion of the colonists, the Dominican Fathers converted the most ferocious and warlike tribe of Indians in Guatemala without shedding a drop of blood. In order that these converts should not be ill-treated by the Spaniards, Father Las Casas returned once more to Spain. The result of his visit was that further laws protecting the Indians were enacted by the Spanish government.

Las Casas Becomes a Bishop. — At the beginning of the year 1543, the Spanish government was holding session at Barcelona. Father Las Casas went there to thank the King for having made new laws in favor of the red men. On this occasion the Protector of the Indians was offered a bishopric in Peru, — an honor which he respectfully declined. However, he was shortly afterward appointed Bishop of Chiapas in Mexico, and was consecrated in Seville, March 31, 1544. That same year, after a most tiresome journey, he reached Chiapas.

Spain had decreed that the American Indians who had been enslaved by the Spaniards should be set free. Bishop Las Casas tried in every possible way to have the decrees enforced, but without success. Later on, when they were partly repealed by the government, Bishop Las Casas made up his mind to return to Spain to plead the cause of the children of the forest.

Literary Work of Las Casas. — Bishop Las Casas, in the

course of his busy and zealous life, took time to write not only a "General History of the Indies," but also a number of smaller works in defense of the American Indians.

When the brave and saintly bishop was approaching death, his fellow Dominicans knelt around his humble bed and recited the prayers for the dying. He then asked their forgiveness for any offenses that he might have committed, and begged them to continue his work in behalf of the Indians. A few moments later, holding in one hand a blessed candle and in the other a crucifix, the first priest ordained in America expired.

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. What is known of the early years of Father Las Casas?
2. How did the discovery of the New World influence him?
3. After spending eight years in America, what important step did Las Casas take?
4. Give an idea of the first Spanish colonists in America.
5. How did they impress the Indians?
6. Why did the Indians later regard them with animosity?
7. What brought about the enslavement of the Indians?
8. Is Columbus to be blamed for the manner in which the Spaniards treated them?
9. Give an account of the coming of the Franciscans and the Dominicans.
10. What startling event took place on the first Sunday of Lent, 1511?
11. Tell what Father Montesino said in his first sermon.
12. State the result of his sermon.
13. What is to be said of Father Las Casas' work as a chaplain?
14. Explain why Father Las Casas gave up his property.
15. Why did he return to Spain?
16. State the result of his visit.
17. Why was his work on behalf of the Indians very difficult?
18. What did Father Las Casas accomplish by his second visit to the Spanish King?
19. What turned the Indians of Porto Rico against the Spaniards?
20. Why did the colonists pay no attention to the royal decrees?
21. Relate the next important step taken by Father Las Casas.
22. How did he handle the defiant Indian chief?
23. Why did he interfere in the conquest of Peru?
24. How did Father Las Casas and his fellow priests succeed in Guatemala?
25. What was the purpose of his third visit to Spain?
26. What great honor was conferred upon him?
27. Did he succeed

in enforcing the royal decrees in regard to the Indians? 28. After returning to Spain what did he do? 29. Describe the last hours of the Protector of the Indians.

CORRELATED STUDIES

I. The poet Longfellow says :

“Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime.”

Read about St. Francis of Assisi and St. Dominic, and be ready to tell the class what, in your judgment, made their lives sublime.

II. Collect as many interesting facts and pictures as you can of Guatemala, Peru, and Nicaragua.

III. Draw a map of Central America, and mark the places visited by Father Las Casas.

IV. Discuss in class: “Was Bishop Las Casas a brave, unselfish man?”

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Barcelona, bär'sē lō'nā

Chiapas, chē ä'päs

deputation, dēp'tū tā'shŭn

Guadalquivir, gô'däl kwīv'ēr

Guatemala, gwä'tā mā'lā

Guayaquil, gwī'ä kēl'

Hispaniola, hīs'pän yō'lā

Las Casas, läs kă'säs

Montesino, mōn tā sē'nō

onerous, ōn'ēr ũs

Ovando, ō vān'dō

Pizarro, pī zār'rō

Salamanca, sāl'ä măn'kā

stringent, strīn'jēnt

PONCE DE LEON

His Early Years. — More than four hundred years ago a Spanish nobleman said to his little son, "When you grow to manhood, my boy, what do you intend to be?" With all the chivalry of a Spaniard, the child quickly replied: "When I am a man, papa, I intend to be a soldier."

The boy who made this answer, Ponce de Leon, was born about the year 1460 in Aragon in the northern part of Spain. The chief object of his early education was to fit him for the life of a Christian soldier. We can imagine his pious mother telling him about God and the duties of his religion. We can see his proud father directing everything to promote the physical development of his son. Long walks, mountain climbing, running, jumping, and other games were among the exercises which he took daily under the watchful eye of his father.

Before Ponce de Leon had reached the age of manhood, we find him engaged as a page in one of the Spanish courts. While thus employed, he must have heard of the great Christopher Columbus and the difficulty he had in getting some rich person interested in his plan of finding a new water route to India. Before the Great Admiral had succeeded in securing the aid of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, Ponce de Leon was busily engaged fighting the Moors, who, seven centuries before, had obtained a foothold in the Spanish kingdom. In that war the Spaniards fought so bravely and performed so many feats

of valor that, before the end of the year 1493, the Moors were driven from the country.

Ponce's Bravery. — During the contest between the Spaniards and the Moors, Ponce de Leon gave many exhibitions of his strength, ability, and fearlessness. He was always found in the thickest of the fight, encouraging his comrades and striking terror into the hearts of his opponents. He fought so brilliantly and successfully against the Moors that when the war came to an end he was regarded by many as the bravest soldier in Spain. He was truly "a lion by name and a lion by nature."

It is said on good authority that shortly after the Moors had been expelled from Spain, Ponce de Leon embarked with Christopher Columbus on his second voyage of discovery. Unfortunately we have no facts regarding what he did and saw during that trip. Nine years later, on February 13, 1502, he sailed with Ovando to the West Indies to secure more territory and riches for the Spanish monarch. In this expedition there were about thirty ships, carrying twenty-five hundred people.

It was unfortunate for our hero that he sailed with such an unmerciful and unscrupulous fellow countryman as Nicholas de Ovando. The cruel manner in which the latter dealt with the inhabitants of the islands he conquered is beyond belief. The poor Indians were treated more like dogs than human beings; and, sad to say, Ponce de Leon assisted him in the diabolical work.

Governor of Eastern Haiti. — As a recompense for his work in conquering the Indians, Ponce de Leon was made governor of the eastern section of San Domingo or Haiti. While filling this office, the Governor and his soldiers paid a friendly visit to Porto Rico, one of the neighboring is-

lands. The fertile valleys and the beautiful mountains of the place delighted the Spaniards; and when they heard that there was an abundance of gold in the island, their joy knew no bounds.

After returning to Haiti, Ponce de Leon wrote to the King of Spain for permission to conquer the people of Porto Rico. As soon as this request was granted, he set out with a great expedition to subdue the Porto Ricans. The Spaniards found the task much more difficult than they had expected. It took several months to conquer these Indians, who used the bow and arrow with wonderful skill. When the Spaniards had gained possession of Porto Rico, Ponce de Leon was made Governor of the island for life.

After a few years the Spanish King sent two of his officials to govern Porto Rico in place of Ponce de Leon. Just about this time a Carib woman told the ex-governor of a wonderful island which abounded in everything that man desired, especially gold and fruits. "This famous island," the Carib woman said, "is situated somewhere north of the Bahamas, and is called Bimini. In the center of the island is a spring of the purest water, and any aged man who bathes in it will become young and handsome again."

How Florida Was Discovered. — The foregoing story appealed very strongly to Ponce de Leon. Accordingly he departed from Porto Rico in quest of the wonderful "Fountain of Youth." In the course of a few months he sailed around many of the islands of the Bahama group, but failed to find Bimini, or the famous "Fountain of Youth."

After leaving the Bahama Islands the expedition sailed towards the north, and on Easter Sunday, 1513, sighted land

near the present city of St. Augustine. On account of the great feast day on which the country was discovered, Ponce de Leon called the place *Pascua Florida* (Flowery Easter).

Wearied and disappointed at not finding the "Fountain of Youth," and not realizing that he had discovered a



PONCE DE LEON LOOKING FOR THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

part of the continent of North America, Ponce de Leon and his men embarked for Porto Rico, and landed on that island September 21, 1513. Here a few of his friends celebrated the explorer's successful voyage, but the world at large paid little attention to the discovery of Florida. However, had Ponce de Leon been fortunate enough to find a large quantity of gold in the newly found land, the discovery of Florida would have then been regarded as one of the most remarkable achievements of that century.

The next year Ponce de Leon returned to his native land, and was received by King Ferdinand with the greatest kindness. A few of the monarch's officers, however, made fun of him and his search for the "Fountain of Youth." They told him that they expected to see a young, agile man with flowing hair and dark beard, but instead they saw an old man with a gray beard, a bald head, and exceedingly stiff joints.

On September 27, 1514, King Ferdinand granted Ponce de Leon permission to conquer and govern, in the name of Spain, Florida and the islands which he had discovered. He did more: he ordered three ships well manned and well armed to be placed at the disposal of the Spanish leader.

Three months later Ponce de Leon left Spain for the purpose of conquering the inhabitants of the Lesser Antilles; but he found this a hopeless task.

A Second Voyage to Florida. — In 1521 Ponce de Leon started on an expedition to conquer the inhabitants of Florida. After a stormy voyage the ships reached their destination. As soon as half of the Spanish soldiers had landed on the coast, a large number of the Indians attacked them with the utmost fury. Caught unprepared, Ponce de Leon led his soldiers against the wild savages. The battle grew fiercer and fiercer until a poisoned arrow pierced the thigh of the Spanish leader. Those nearest to him, when he fell, carried him on board ship. This was the signal for the Spaniards to retreat.

As soon as they reached Havana, Ponce de Leon was taken ashore to receive medical treatment; but alas! the poisoned arrow had already done its work, and the commander of the expedition soon expired.



THE SPANIARDS ATTACKED BY THE INDIANS

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. When and where was Ponce de Leon born?
2. What do we know of his early life and education?
3. What was the work of a page at the time of Ponce de Leon?
4. Where did he have an opportunity to show his bravery as a soldier?
5. Why was he "a lion by name and a lion by nature"?
6. With whom did Ponce de Leon sail to the New World?
7. Did the influence of Ovando have an effect on his character?
8. Give an account of his first official position in the New World.
9. What led him to conquer Porto Rico?
10. Narrate the story the Carib woman told Ponce de Leon.
11. Did Ponce de Leon find the island of Bimini?
12. Why was his discovery of Florida not fully appreciated by the Spaniards?
13. How was he received in Spain on his return?
14. What did he plan to do on his second voyage?
15. Why did the Spaniards retreat?
16. Give an account of his death.
17. What qualities that you admire did Ponce de Leon possess?
18. What would you criticize in his life?

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. You will find the story of the "Fountain of Youth," which Ponce de Leon sought, intensely interesting. Read it and tell it to the class.
- II. Before the time of Ponce de Leon, the Moors had taken possession of much of the Spanish kingdom. Study the history of these people and the geography of their country.
- III. Compare briefly the Haiti, Porto Rico, Florida and the Lesser Antilles of the sixteenth century with these same places at the present time.
- IV. Discuss in class: "Did Ponce de Leon do more for America than Balboa?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Antilles, ăn tîl'ēz
 Aragon, ăr'ă gŏn
 Bimini, bē mē nē'
 Carib, kăr'ĭb

diabolical, dī'ă bŏl'ĭ kăl
 Pascua Florida, păs'quă flō rē'dă
 Ponce de Leon, pŏn'thā dā lă ōn'

HERNANDO CORTES

His Early Years. — In a little Spanish town, in the year 1485, Hernando Cortes, the dauntless conqueror of Mexico, was born. Like the other boys of his time, he doubtless went to school in his native town, Medellin, but he did not care for the confinement and the work of the classroom. He preferred to roam through the fields and woodlands in search of excitement and adventure.

One day his parents said to him: "Hernando, we want you to be an educated man, and to have a profession." He listened attentively to their words; but he felt that his daring and fearless nature drew him to another calling.

He Goes to the New World. — At the age of fourteen he went to the University of Salamanca to study law. Here he found everything to interest a boy: genial companions, exciting sports, and able teachers. Yet, after a stay of two years at the University, he returned to his home. In the course of time his parents realized that there was no use in trying to make a lawyer of him; so in 1504 they allowed him to go to the New World.

At this time Ovando was Governor of San Domingo. From him Cortes received a warm reception. The Governor, desiring to test the mettle of Hernando, sent him to quell a rebellion among the Indians. The young man acquitted himself so well in this work that Governor Velasquez asked him to help in subduing the natives of Cuba. Always eager to fight, Cortes lent his assistance most willingly.

Cortes in Trouble.— After performing most brilliant feats in conquering the Indians of Cuba, Cortes settled down to the quiet life of a farmer. As the years glided by, his business prospered more and more, and he grew rich and influential. Governor Velasquez saw with a jealous eye the growing power of Cortes. He feared such a rival:



CORTES RUSHING TOWARD THE CHURCH

he wished he would leave the country. Hernando, however, had no notion of doing so.

Subsequently Velasquez had Cortes imprisoned on a trivial charge. A few days later he escaped from prison, and made a dash for the nearest church, where he was free from arrest. Here he remained for many days without leaving the building.

One evening, as he stepped outside the door of the church, he was seized by a soldier, carried on board a ship, and placed in the lower part of the vessel for safe-keeping.

Imagine how this brave man must have felt in such a sad plight. Surrounded by extra guards, he began to feel that there was little or no chance for escape.

For many days he was confined in this dungeon. One night, however, he managed to get to the deck of the ship. Here he changed clothes with a cabin boy. Thus disguised, he jumped into one of the life boats and rowed toward the shore. Unfortunately a strong current prevented him from making much progress with the oars. In this predicament he took off his clothes, tied them up with a piece of string, and with the bundle on his back jumped into the water and swam to the shore.

He Leads an Expedition to Mexico. — After the second escape, Velasquez did not try to arrest him, and, in the course of time, they became friends. Later on the Governor showed his esteem for Cortes by placing him in command of an expedition for the conquest of Mexico.

When the ships and the men were in readiness, Cortes, after attending Mass, embarked for Cuba on February 19, 1519. Having explored the island of Cozumel, the expedition sailed around the coast of Yucatan to the present site of Vera Cruz.

Messengers Arrive. — Before the Spaniards had landed on the soil of Mexico, messengers from the King of that place arrived. Cortes received them very kindly and inquired about their master, Montezuma. One of the messengers then said to the leader of the Spaniards:

“We are come in the name of the great Montezuma to ask why you bring your white men to our shore.”

“I have come,” said Cortes, “from the greatest King in the world with a present for your master, and I must deliver the gift into his hands.”



CORTES MEETING THE MESSENGERS OF MONTEZUMA

"You cannot see Montezuma," said the messenger.
"We will carry your present to him."

"That will not do," said Cortes, "I must give it to him personally."

After presents had been exchanged as a sign of friendship, the messengers returned to Montezuma, and told him what had taken place.

"I do not wish to see Cortes," said the King.

"Sire, he is determined to see you," said the messenger.

"Go to him," said the King, "and tell him that I forbid him to enter the city of Mexico."

Vera Cruz is Founded. — After the Spaniards had landed at or near the present city of Vera Cruz, other messengers from Montezuma arrived with the most costly presents for Cortes. They said to the Spanish commander:

"Montezuma is willing that the Spaniards should rest for a time in his country, and that they should take a quantity of the precious metals found in his kingdom, but he forbids them to visit the city of Mexico."

"Tell your King," said Cortes, "that I will call on him in the near future."

As the Indian messengers left the camp, the Spaniards went on their way. After conquering the Tlaxcalans, Cortes made friends of them. On and on the Spaniards traveled, leveling every obstacle that appeared in their pathway. As they approached the city of Mexico, Montezuma sent his nephew to escort the Spanish commander to his palace. Everything was done by the Mexicans or Aztecs to welcome the white men. Cortes, to show his friendship for Montezuma, placed on the neck of the King a collar of glass beads. Montezuma presented Cortes with two collars made of gold.

Montezuma is Seized. — Some time after his entry into the city of Mexico, Cortes heard that a number of Spaniards had been cruelly slaughtered by the Aztecs. Thereupon, he sent for Montezuma, and seized him as a guarantee that the natives should not kill any more of his men.

The Aztecs, meanwhile, were growing tired of the presence of the Spaniards in the city. Montezuma heard that if the white men did not leave Mexico, the natives were determined to put them all to death. He advised Cortes to leave the country. The Spanish leader told him that it was impossible for him to do so; for when he left Vera Cruz he had burned all his ships. Montezuma assured him that he would help him to build a number of ships. Cortes, accordingly, promised that he should leave the country as soon as the ships were built.

While the Spaniards and the Indians were building a number of ships to carry the white men from Mexico, reinforcements in command of Narvaez arrived from Cuba. They were sent by Velasquez, not to aid Cortes, but to try to defeat his project. When the Spanish commander realized this, he made up his mind to conquer them or die in the attempt.

One dark night Cortes and a number of his trusted men stole into the cottage where Narvaez dwelt, seized him, and carried him to Vera Cruz where he was imprisoned. This was the signal for all the Spaniards in Mexico to enlist under the standard of Cortes.

The Aztecs Rebel. — As soon as the Mexicans learned that the white men were fighting among themselves, they determined to drive the Europeans from their country. Thousands of them attacked the Spaniards in the city of Mexico. On hearing this, Cortes returned to the city lest



THE CAPTURE OF MONTEZUMA

his fellow countrymen should be defeated and Montezuma should escape. His presence buoyed the spirits of the Spaniards to continue the struggle. After some time Cortes began to realize that if the fighting were to continue much longer, he would have no army. So he asked Montezuma to urge the Aztecs to return to their homes. The King, however, did not wish to make such a plea. He felt that his people would not like it.

In order to satisfy Cortes, Montezuma ascended the tower, called for silence, and spoke to the people. He told them that he was not a prisoner, but the guest of the Spaniards; and he advised them to give up fighting and return to their homes.

When the King had finished his appeal, the natives called him a coward and threw stones at him. One of them hit him on the temple, and brought about his death in a few days. This calamity caused a slight lull in the fighting; but, just as soon as the body of Montezuma was consigned to the grave, the Aztecs went on the warpath; and, no matter how often the Spaniards drove them back, they always returned to the charge.

Cortes in a Predicament. — The Spaniards were reduced to a small number, and their supply of ammunition was giving out. Something had to be done. Cortes decided to steal out of the city during the darkness of night. This, however, was no easy matter; for the Aztecs were on guard lest their enemies should escape.

The night for the departure of the Spaniards arrived. With silent tread they marched quickly toward the confines of the city; but, just as they were about to escape, the Mexicans pounced upon them and killed many of them.

Sad and dejected, Cortes and his diminished army went

to the country of the Tlaxcalans. Here they were kindly received by the natives. After resting for a few weeks, some of the soldiers wished to return to Cuba. Cortes, however, would not think of doing so. On the contrary, he appealed to the men to help him retake the city of Mexico. His burning words had the desired effect, for every Spaniard agreed to follow his lead.

He Again Takes the City of Mexico. — When everything was in readiness, Cortes launched a number of small ships, fitted out with cannon, on Lake Tezcoco, and attacked the city of Mexico from three different places. The Mexicans fought valiantly. After the siege had lasted about three months, the King of the Aztecs, in an effort to escape, was captured by the Spaniards, and the city of Mexico was retaken.

Cortes, it must be remembered, had no authority from the Spanish King. Neither had he been appointed leader of the expedition, nor Governor of Mexico. He, therefore, returned to Spain and dazzled the King and his nobles with a glowing account of his conquest and by the large amount of gold which he brought back. Without much ado, King Charles made him Captain-General of the army and Governor of Mexico, or New Spain, as it was then called.

Cortes Returns to Mexico. — The newly appointed Governor hastily returned to Mexico, searched diligently for gold, explored other parts of the country, and put to death without mercy those who did not willingly acknowledge his authority. After some time complaints were sent to the Spanish Court about his harsh and unscrupulous conduct. When the Governor heard about these charges, he went at once to Spain and made it appear that he was falsely accused.

The Spanish government allowed him to remain Governor of Mexico, but they sent a commission to govern the country. For one reason or another, the commissioners did not give satisfaction. Accordingly a viceroy was sent from Spain. In the meantime Cortes busied himself exploring other parts of the country; and on one of these expeditions, he is said to have discovered Lower California.

About the year 1540, Cortes had a serious dispute with the viceroy. To settle the matter he went to Spain; but, much to his regret, the King would not see him, and the Council of the Indies refused to decide the dispute in his favor. Notwithstanding this, Cortes tried in vain to gain the good graces of his royal master. His final attempt is worth recording. One day he pushed his way through the crowd and spoke to the King. The latter asked who he was. Cortes proudly answered: "I am the man who has given you more provinces than your ancestors left you cities." These imprudent words helped to bring him to a sad and penniless ending.

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. Give an imaginary conversation between the boy Hernando and his mother.
2. Locate San Domingo, Salamanca, and Cuba.
3. How did the Governor of San Domingo test the mettle of Cortes?
4. What excited the jealousy of Governor Velasquez?
5. Tell about the escapes of Cortes.
6. How did Velasquez show friendship to Cortes?
7. Tell what you know about Montezuma.
8. Locate Vera Cruz, and give the meaning of its name.
9. What was the signification of exchanging gifts?
10. Why did Montezuma forbid the Spaniards to enter the city of Mexico?
11. On what pretense was Montezuma seized by Cortes?
12. What excuse did Cortes make for not leaving the city?
13. How did he plan to do so?
14. How was the city of Mexico retaken?
15. When was Cortes made Governor of New Spain?
16. Describe the feelings of Cortes as he approached Seville to embark for Mexico.

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. During the past ten or fifteen years much has been written concerning the republic of Mexico. Study this country with a view of ascertaining what articles we send to Mexico and what supplies we receive from that country.
- II. Bring to the classroom interesting stories and pictures of Mexico and explain how they help you to know better the people of that country.
- III. Discuss in class: "Has the Republican form of government been a success in Mexico?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Aztec, ăz'tĕk	Narvaez, năr vă'ăth
Cozumel, kō'sōō mĕl'	Tezcoco, tăs kō'kō
Hernando Cortes, hĕr năn'dō	Tlaxcala, tlăs kă'lă
kôr'tĕz	Velasquez, vă lăs'kăth
intrepid, ĭn trĕp'ĭd	Vera Cruz, vă'ră krōōs', vĕr'ă
Medellin, mă'thĕl yĕn'	krōōz'
Montezuma, mōn'tĕ zōō'mă	Yucatan, yōō kă tăn'

FERDINAND MAGELLAN

His Birth. — In the last quarter of the fifteenth century, there was born in a mountainous section of northern Portugal a child who, forty-two years later, was to perform the remarkable feat of sailing around the world.

Shortly after his birth, this boy was carried to the nearest church and christened Ferdinand. Like so many of the great men of his time, little is known of his boyhood. In his mountain home he doubtless became acquainted with the wild flowers, shrubs, trees, and animals that were to be found in the locality. He loved to ride his father's horses, and to hunt the wild animals that frequented the mountain.

Ferdinand's father was a nobleman, a petty prince in his part of the country. The life of the boy, nevertheless, was rather lonely and uninteresting, except during vacation, when the Magellan family lived at Oporto. During this time the boy became acquainted with a number of seamen, who told him many tales of adventure.

During the fifteenth century, the Portuguese were considered among the best, if not really the best, sailors of Europe. We can imagine how Ferdinand's heart must have expanded with pride when he learned of the daring trips of his fellow countryman, Prince Henry of Portugal; and how he must have longed for the time when he, too, could perform some remarkable voyage of discovery.

His Life as a Page. — At the age of fifteen, Ferdinand took up his residence at the court of the King of Portugal.

Besides performing the duties of a page, he was receiving an education.

It was about this time that the great Vasco da Gama had reached India by sailing round the Cape of Good Hope. In order to get a firm footing in this country before their rivals, the Spaniards, would reach the place, the King of Portugal gave orders that a large fleet should go at once to India. Among those who offered their services for this voyage we find Ferdinand Magellan; and, during the seven or eight years that he spent in India and the countries thereabout, he showed himself, on more than one occasion, a brave and fearless soldier.

In 1513 Magellan returned to Portugal just in time to volunteer his services in an expedition against the Moors of Morocco. Here again he displayed his wonderful valor and bravery in defeating the rebellious natives, but unfortunately he received a wound which lamed him for life.

A Great Disappointment. — Tiring of northern Africa, Magellan returned to Portugal without permission, and laid before the King his plan for a westward route to India. The Portuguese monarch, for one reason or another, had grown tired of Magellan, and took no interest in his scheme. In this predicament the brave navigator asked the King's permission to seek the aid of some other country — a request which the monarch willingly granted.

Disappointed by the attitude of the King of Portugal, and goaded on by the ambition to rival some of the great navigators of his time, Magellan bade adieu to his native land and went to Spain. Here, through the kindness of Bishop Fonseca, he had an audience with King Charles. When the latter heard the plan of the Portuguese navigator he was very much pleased, because it would be a means of

extending the Spanish possessions in Asia, and would give the Spaniards as well as the Portuguese access to the riches of the East.

Magellan's Determination. — When the King of Portugal heard that Magellan had succeeded in interesting King Charles of Spain in his plan, he was very angry; and he tried in every way to persuade Magellan from attempting the voyage.

In the month of August, in the year 1519, Magellan, accompanied by 270 sailors, went to the Church of St.



MAGELLAN SETS SAIL FOR THE NEW WORLD

Mary of Victory, Seville, and solemnly promised to do his utmost to promote the interests of the Spanish King.

Presently his fleet of five Spanish ships (*Trinidad*, *Victoria*, *Concepcion*, *Santiago*, and *San Antonio*) started on the voyage of discovery. Within six days the vessels reached the island of Teneriffe. Here they remained for a few days,

getting a supply of wood, water, and fresh fish. It was during this delay that Magellan received a letter from his wife's father, saying: "Beware, my son, beware! Keep a good watch, for it has come to my knowledge that some of your captains, in case of any trouble, will kill you." Though this news did not dismay the Captain-General in the least, it had the effect of making him careful and watchful.

What They Saw. — Two months were spent in crossing the Atlantic Ocean. During that time fear crept into the hearts of many of the sailors as they saw near by man-eating sharks with terrible teeth, and other monsters of the deep. On the other hand, the presence of flocks of never-resting birds, shoals of flying fish, and electrical storms caused intense wonder among the sailors.

After a long and perilous voyage, Magellan sighted land off Cape St. Augustine, not far from Pernambuco. He did not go ashore, but skirted along the coast until he came to the harbor of Rio de Janeiro. Among Magellan's men was a Portuguese, John Carvalho, who had lived with the Indians of that country for four years. Through his intercession the fleet was well supplied with fresh provisions. John told the Indians that their visitors would not harm them. Thus assured, the natives gave some provisions to the white men. "For a fishhook or a knife they gave five or six chickens; for a comb, a brace of geese; for a bell a basketful of potatoes; for a small mirror or a pair of scissors, as many fish as would sustain ten men several days."

These half-civilized Indians of Brazil were without clothing; they looked like wild animals. They lived in long, low houses, slept in hammocks, and ate with a relish human flesh, especially that of their enemies.

In Winter Quarters. — Magellan's next stopping place was the mouth of the La Plata River. After exploring this river and not finding a way to the Pacific Ocean, he and his men sailed to the south until they reached Patagonia, where they anchored in the harbor of St. Julian on the last day of March, 1520. Some time later the harbor froze. This meant a long delay. Magellan, accordingly, ordered the rations of each sailor reduced, — a regulation which caused great discontent.

“Let us go back to Spain, let us go back to Spain,” was heard on every side.

The Captain-General pretended, however, not to hear it.

Magellan's Appeal. — In answer to the entreaties of some of the sailors, Magellan said: “Never will I return, never, until I have accomplished the object of this voyage. It was undertaken at the orders of the King of Spain, who hath chosen me, above all others, to command; and he shall not be disappointed! No, my men, we will not go back. Here will we stay till the coming of spring. We have already penetrated farther south than any other navigator; and, having gained so much, shall we lose it all for lack of courage?”

The inspiring words of the Captain-General silenced the sailors for a time; but when three Spanish captains called upon their men to mutiny, there was an instant response. Things now looked bad for Magellan. There were three vessels against his two; but he did not fear. With the skill of a general, he speedily put an end to the mutiny.

A Tour of Inspection. — When order had been restored, Magellan sent the *Santiago* on a tour of inspection. When this ship had traveled about sixty miles to the south and had reached the mouth of the Santa Cruz River, a terrible



THE PATAGONIAN GIANT AND THE SPANISH SAILOR

gale arose and wrecked the vessel. The sailors fortunately made their escape and built a raft on which they crossed the Santa Cruz River. Two of their number made their way to the rest of the fleet, with the result that a relief party was sent out by Magellan just in time to save the others from starvation and exposure.

While in the port of St. Julian, Magellan had a novel experience. As he had never seen an inhabitant of Patagonia, he was very much surprised one day when he beheld a gigantic warrior with a heavy bow in one hand and a bunch of feathered arrows in the other. As the giant, clad in skins, came near the vessel, Magellan sent one of his sailors to meet him. After performing some funny antics, the massive giant and the sailor embraced. Both entered Magellan's ship, and everyone on board tried to pay special attention to their Patagonian visitor.

According to an eyewitness, the giant's face was very large, and painted red, with the exception of yellow circles around his eyes and two heart-shaped daubs of the same color on his cheeks.

The Strait of Magellan. — After a delay of four months in the harbor of St. Julian, Magellan with his four ships sailed for the mouth of the Santa Cruz, where he remained two months. About October 18, 1520, the expedition started southward. Three days later the ships reached the entrance of the passage to the Pacific Ocean. When the strait appeared in view, Magellan consulted the captains of the four ships as to whether they should continue their journey to the Spice Islands, or return to Spain. All but one favored continuing; so the long and tiresome journey, through what is now called the Strait of Magellan, took place without much excitement, save that the *San Antonio* made her escape and returned to Spain.

When they had entered the Pacific Ocean, scurvy broke out among the men as the party voyaged toward the north; to make matters worse, their supplies became scarce, and the sailors had not enough to eat or drink. As they neared the equator, moreover, the terrible heat made their lot more miserable.

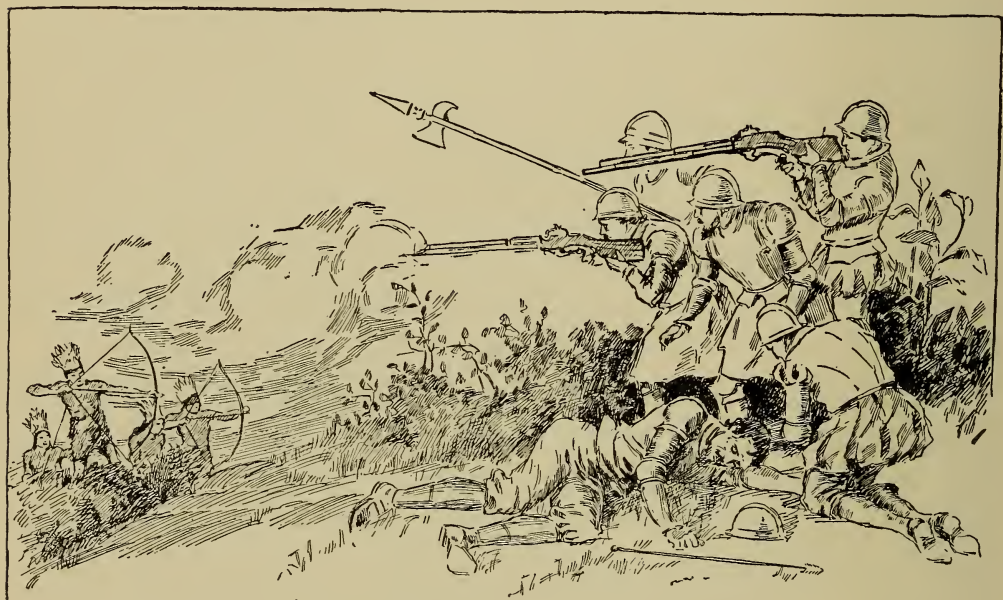
An Island of Robbers. — During the first half of March, 1521, the weak and starving sailors were cheered by the appearance of a beautiful island in the distance. Here the natives supplied them with bananas, coconuts, and refreshing drinks. For this kindness Magellan allowed the brown men to roam about the ships; but, when one of his officers told him that they had stolen a small boat and were taking everything they could lay their hands on, he gave orders to clear the ship and sent a party in search of the missing boat. Magellan named the place “Ladrone, or Robber Island.” It is now called Guam.

Greatly refreshed and improved in health, Magellan and his sailors continued their journey toward the Philippine Islands. The next stop was made at one of the outlying islands of the group. Here the Captain-General pitched his tents and set up a temporary hospital for the sick sailors. In a short time all the invalids were well enough to proceed on the voyage.

A Cross and a Crown. — On and on the little fleet traveled, till it came to the island of Mazana. Here Magellan found a native, a Malayan, who could understand the language of one of the sailors. This helped very much in gaining the good will and friendship of the islanders. After gifts were exchanged and friendly visits made, the King of that place allowed Magellan and fifty of his men to land. On this occasion the Captain-General

erected a cross, surmounted by a gilded crown, on a hill not far from the shore. These two emblems typified the religion of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of Spain, in whose interests Magellan was employed.

The place next explored by Magellan was Cebu. Here, we are told, the King and eight hundred of his followers became Christians after being instructed by the Captain-General and the priests in his party. Magellan told the



THE DEATH OF MAGELLAN

natives that they should not become Christians through fear, or to please the Spaniards, but of their own free will. All cried out with one voice that they were not becoming Christians through fear, or to please the Spaniards, but of their own free will.

The Death of Magellan. — Some weeks later a petty King asked Magellan to help him subdue the ruler of the island of Mactan. The Captain-General, ever ready for a skir-

mish, set out on April 25, 1521, and shortly afterward landed on the island with about fifty men. This was the signal for thousands of the Mactanese to attack the Spaniards. As the savages increased in number and drew closer to the little band of Europeans, Magellan, having been wounded by a poisoned arrow, ordered his men to retreat slowly. This unusual command terrified the Spaniards. Consequently, most of them ran as fast as they could to the vessels, while Magellan and a few faithful soldiers stood their ground. In a short time the Captain-General, seriously wounded, was surrounded by the Mactanese and put to death without mercy. Thus died one of the bravest men that ever donned a uniform and one of the greatest navigators of all times.

The next day the King of Cebu invited the officers and soldiers of the Spanish ships to a banquet. About sixty accepted the invitation. Of these only two escaped the trap which the King had set for them; the others were put to death.

After the *Trinidad*, the *Victoria*, and the *Concepcion* had retaliated by bombarding the island of Cebu, it was found that there were not sufficient sailors to man the three ships. A council of war was called and it was decided to blow up the *Concepcion*. The two remaining vessels then started for the Spice Islands; and had they not secured the assistance of a captain-pirate they might never have reached their destination.

The Moluccas or Spice Islands. — On the morning of November 6, 1521, four lofty islands appeared in view. "These," said the pirate-pilot, "are the Moluccas, for which you have been searching for almost twenty-six months." The King of these islands welcomed the Span-

iards and tried to win their good will. Meanwhile the two Spanish ships were being loaded with spices. When everything was ready for the homeward voyage, the captain of the *Trinidad* reported that his ship had sprung a leak and was unfit to sail.

As soon as repairs were made the *Trinidad* started on her homeward journey, but was captured by the Portuguese. In the meantime the *Victoria* hoisted anchor and steered for Spain. After three months the sailors sighted the Cape of Good Hope, and on September 8, 1522, they reached Seville.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the wonderful reception which the eighteen survivors received from the King and the people of Spain. The hardy seamen, true to their Catholic faith, went the first day to the Church of Our Lady of Victory, and offered up a fervent prayer of thanksgiving for their safe return.

Though Sebastian Del Cano was the captain who brought the *Victoria* back to Seville, he was generous-hearted enough to give to Ferdinand Magellan the honor of being the first to circumnavigate the globe.

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. Where and when was Ferdinand Magellan born?
2. Tell what you know of his early years.
3. What duties did Ferdinand perform while he served as a page to the King of Portugal?
4. In what way was Magellan associated with Vasco da Gama?
5. As a soldier, what did Ferdinand do?
6. Why did Magellan go to Spain?
7. Why did King Charles of Spain willingly aid Magellan?
8. How did the King of Portugal show his jealousy?
9. In what way did Magellan learn that he was surrounded by enemies?
10. During the voyage across the Atlantic, what frightened the sailors?
11. Relate how Magellan gained the good will of the inhabitants of Rio de Janeiro.
12. Give an account of the inhabitants of Brazil.
13. What did Magellan say to

the sailors who wanted to return to Spain? 14. How did Magellan crush the mutiny? 15. Describe Magellan's experience with the giant Patagonian. 16. When did he discover the Strait of Magellan? 17. Describe his experience in the Pacific Ocean. 18. Why did Magellan call Guam "Ladrone, or Robber Island"? 19. In what way did Magellan show his Catholicity when he arrived at the Philippine Islands? 20. What did he do at Cebu? 21. Give an account of the death of Magellan. 22. How did the King of Cebu exhibit his treachery? 23. Why was the *Concepcion* blown up? 24. What happened to the *Trinidad*? 25. When did the *Victoria* reach Spain? 26. How did Del Cano manifest his generosity?

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. The story of Magellan will mean more to you if you outline the course followed by that great navigator, and name the important places where he landed.
- II. Collect a few interesting facts about Argentina, the Philippine Islands, the Spice Islands, the Strait of Magellan, and the Cape of Good Hope.
- III. Long ago the people believed that the world was flat. Explain how Magellan's voyage helped to prove that the world is round.
- IV. Discuss in class: "Did Magellan's sailing around the world do more for the science of geography than for history?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Carvalho, kār vāl'yōō
 Cebu, sã bōō'
 Concepcion, kōn sēp syōn'
 Da Gama, dā gā'mã
 Del Cano, děl kã'nō
 Fonseca, fōn sã'kã
 Guam, gwãm
 Ladrone, là drōn'
 Mactan, māk tãn'

Magellan, mà jěl'ăn
 Mazana, mã zã'nã
 Moluccas, mō lūk'áz
 Oporto, ô pōr'tōō
 Patagonia, păt'à gō'nĩ á
 Pernambuco, pēr'nãm bōō'kō
 Rio de Janeiro, rē'ō dā zhà nã'rō
 Santiago, sãn'tê ä'gō
 Teneriffe, tēn'ēr ĩf'

FERDINAND DE SOTO

His Youth. — At the beginning of the sixteenth century, Ferdinand de Soto was born in the sunny land of Spain. Though his parents belonged to the nobility, they were by no means wealthy. Consequently, his early years were not spent in ease and luxury.

It is probable that Ferdinand thought more of the bread-and-butter side of education than he did of the cultural. He was a tall, handsome boy, well built, and endowed with remarkable strength and ability. He had few equals in fencing, horse-riding, running, jumping, and all those manly exercises considered necessary for the training of a Spanish gentleman.

About the age of thirteen he attracted the attention of a nobleman blessed with considerable wealth. This gentleman, Don Pedro by name, took Ferdinand into his home, and shortly afterward sent him to college for six years. During that time the young student developed into a sturdy specimen of manhood.

Don Pedro Becomes Governor of Darien. — In the year 1514, Don Pedro was appointed Governor of Darien. Accordingly he set out for the New World, and soon after entered upon the duties of his office. Five years later the Governor returned to Spain to find his second daughter, Isabella, deeply in love with Ferdinand. This information grieved and worried Don Pedro very much. The thought of his beautiful daughter marrying one of his dependents was too much for him.



DE SOTO AND ISABELLA

“It must not be,” he said. “It must not be.”

With a view of breaking up the affection which existed between de Soto and his daughter, Don Pedro decided to take the young Spaniard, then nineteen years of age, to Darien. Before the ships sailed for the New World, de Soto and Isabella met secretly and promised to be true to each other.

After reaching America, Captain de Soto was sent on the most difficult and dangerous missions. It really seemed as if the Governor desired the death of his ward; but the brave and gallant young Spaniard was equal to every emergency.

Some years later, when an account of Don Pedro's cruel treatment of the American Indians had reached the Spanish Court, a new Governor was at once sent to Darien. Thereupon, Don Pedro and some of his followers went to Nicaragua and assumed control of that country.

De Soto and Pizarro. — In 1532 de Soto joined an expedition under Francis Pizarro, which set out from Darien for the conquest of Peru. Here again he showed his valor and ability as a soldier. He was always ready and willing to undertake the most dangerous enterprise. Shortly after discovering the great national road which led to the capital of Peru, he was sent by Pizarro to visit the Inca or King who lived there. On this delicate errand he was most successful in gaining the good will of the Inca, — an advantage which helped very much in the conquest of Peru.

When the Spaniards had gained possession of the capital, the Inca was thrown into prison. De Soto tried in every way to bring about his release. Finally Pizarro agreed that if the Inca gave him a roomful of gold he would be set at liberty. A few months later the Inca fulfilled his part of the agreement, but Pizarro was not willing to set him free.



DE SOTO AT THE INCA'S PALACE

While de Soto was away on an exploring tour, the Inca was taken out on the public square and executed by order of Pizarro. When de Soto returned and found out what had happened to his Indian friend, his anger knew no bounds. He went straight to Pizarro and upbraided him for his unjust and inhuman conduct.

As soon as de Soto had received his share of the spoils, he returned in haste to Spain, where the fame of his exploits had preceded him. Everywhere he received a great welcome, and the nobility vied with each other in doing him honor.

Fifteen years previous he had left his native land with scarcely a cent in his pocket, while his patron, Don Pedro, possessed riches in abundance. Now the tables were turned: Don Pedro was almost in poverty, while Ferdinand de Soto had a vast amount of wealth.

De Soto Marries Isabella. — On returning to Spain, one of the first things de Soto did was to marry the brave young woman who had remained true to him for fifteen years. Shortly after this the Spanish Emperor appointed him Governor of Cuba and President or Lieutenant-Governor of Florida.

At this time one of the Spaniards who had accompanied Narvaez to Florida returned to Spain. He gave a most glowing account of the riches of the country which he had explored. He told the people that there was as much gold in Florida as they had found in Peru. This information helped to hasten the departure of de Soto and a number of wealthy and adventurous Spaniards for the New World.

On reaching Havana, de Soto left there his wife Isabella, her maids, and a number of soldiers to act as a body-guard, while he and the rest of his 600 followers set sail for the coast of Florida. On the 25th of May, 1539, they saw land

in the distance, and five days later they went ashore at Tampa Bay.

It would be unjust to de Soto to give our readers the impression that he was prompted solely in this exploring trip by a desire for gold; for the historian Parkman tells us that in coming to Florida "the enterprise was undertaken for God alone." Furthermore, twelve priests accompanied de Soto's expedition. It is safe to say, then, that the newly appointed Governor had in mind the Christianizing of the Indians of Florida as well as a desire for gold.

The Work of Exploration. — As de Soto and his men traveled northward toward Tallahassee, the natives tried to impede their progress in every imaginable way. In some places the country through which they had to pass was swampy, and in other places it was covered with bushes. The natives, more ferocious and warlike than those of the Antilles, attacked them from every favorable ambush.

Notwithstanding the unfriendly attitude of the Indians, de Soto tried in every way to win their friendship. He sent word to them on many occasions that his mission was a peaceful one, and that he did not wish to harm them; but his words were in vain. The Indians would not forget their previous experience with the Spaniards.

After a long and painful journey through Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi, without finding even a nugget of gold, de Soto and his followers crossed the Mississippi not far from the spot where that great river is joined by the Arkansas.

De Soto and his men then set out to explore the present State of Arkansas; and again they failed to find any gold or a passage to the South Sea (Pacific Ocean). Accordingly

they returned to the banks of the Mississippi, tired and disheartened.

De Soto's Death. — Discouraged by the results of his explorations, de Soto's spirit began to fail. He contracted a slow fever, which brought on paralysis of the arm. The fever grew worse. Days of melancholy ensued. The hand of Death was upon him.

Calmly and with the piety of a loyal and devoted Catholic, he settled his worldly affairs. As his successor he appointed Moscoso, to whom each officer took an oath of allegiance.



THE BURIAL OF DE SOTO

On the threshold of eternity, he bade adieu to his brave followers, urged them to do all in their power to make Christians of the Indians of Florida, and entreated them to live as brothers, loving and helping one another. Hav-

ing made his peace with God and men, Ferdinand de Soto, in the forty-second year of his age, resigned his great soul into the hands of his Creator.

The Spaniards feared that the Indians would dishonor the body of their leader if it were buried on land; so they cut down a giant oak, and scooped out a space large enough for the remains of de Soto. In this rude coffin the body was taken to the center of the Mississippi and slowly and sadly lowered into its strange resting place.

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. Tell what you know about the birthplace of de Soto.
2. What do you consider the most striking fact connected with his early years?
3. Show that he was a manly boy.
4. In what way did he succeed in getting a college education?
5. What happened when Don Pedro went to the New World as Governor of Darien?
6. How did Don Pedro try to break up the affection which existed between his daughter and de Soto?
7. In what way did de Soto help Pizarro in the conquest of Peru?
8. What do you think of the character of de Soto?
9. What caused him to prosper and Don Pedro to become a pauper?
10. What prompted de Soto to go to Florida?
11. Why was the exploration of Florida difficult?
12. Did de Soto find much gold in his travels?
13. Describe his last hours.
14. Why was his funeral so impressive?

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. Draw an outline map of the Southern and the Central States, and trace thereon the course followed by de Soto in his tour of exploration. Tell the class the benefit you derived from doing this work.
- II. During his long exploring tour, de Soto was constantly harassed by the Indians. Account for this unfriendly attitude.
- III. Prepare for the class what you consider the most interesting features of the Mississippi River, and tell of the important trade centers thereon.
- IV. Discuss in class: "Was de Soto a greater hero than Magellan?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Amalgro, ă mál'grō

Arkansas, ăr'kăñ sô

De Soto, dē sō'tō ; dā

Don Pedro, dōñ pē'drō, pā'drō

Georgia, jôr'jī à, jôr'já

Inca, ĭŋ'kà

Moscoso, mōs kō'sō

Tallahassee, Tăl'á hăś'ê

FRANCISCO PIZARRO

His Youth. — If you were to see a little boy tending swine in the countryside when he ought to be at school; if you knew he was scantily clad, poorly fed, and exposed to all kinds of weather seven days in the week, you would naturally



THE BOY PIZARRO HEARS ABOUT THE NEW WORLD

like to find out all you could about him, and you would do your best to help him better his condition.

This was exactly the life which Francis Pizarro, the conqueror of Peru, led on a quiet farm in Truxillo, Spain, toward the close of the fifteenth century. The boy's father was a soldier who cared little for home life, and his mother was a woman with scarcely any ambition.

One day as Francis was tending the swine, a stranger, attracted by the lowly appearance of the boy, stopped to speak to him. He told Francis of the wonderful New World, and of the great quantities of gold and precious stones which had been found there.

When the stranger went on his journey, Francis began to think how much better it would be to go to this New World and gain fame and riches than to eke out a miserable living on his father's farm.

How He Escaped. — When Pizarro was fifteen years of age, he decided that the time had come for him to leave the farm for the more agreeable work of a soldier of fortune. In the darkness of night Francis, with a little bundle thrown over his shoulders, stole quietly out of his native town and started for Seville. It was a long and tiresome journey, and few boys of his age would ever think of walking that distance. At last the brave boy reached his destination.

A few days later Francis spoke to an officer and told him that he wished to become a soldier. The officer listened attentively to what he had to say, took him to the captain of his company, and recommended him as a desirable subject for the army.

Soon after Pizarro went to Italy and distinguished himself by his great skill and dauntless bravery in the war against the French. On returning to Spain he was made a lieutenant; and eventually other honors were conferred upon him.

Pizarro Goes to America. — A few years later, when an expedition was fitted out for the New World and there was a call for brave and daring soldiers with military experience, Francis Pizarro was one of the first to volunteer his services. His first battle with the natives of America

was on the Isthmus of Panama under Governor Ojeda. Later on he accompanied Balboa on the ever-memorable journey that led to the discovery of the Pacific.

In one of these expeditions Pizarro heard of a land to the south far richer than any other country which the Spaniards had discovered. This information fired the ambition of the former swine-herd to equal in exploration Cortes or de Soto, but he lacked the means to carry out his plans.

Friends in Need. — Hearing of Pizarro's proposed project, and wishing to lend it their assistance, Almagro, a soldier, and Luque, a priest, contributed all the money they had to fit out an expedition. On November 14, 1524, Pizarro with 112 men sailed from Panama in a small ship. A short time after Almagro followed in another vessel. The two leaders met on an island (opposite the Pearl Islands) where Pizarro was resting. As soon as their conference was over, Almagro returned to Panama to get more men and supplies, but he succeeded in securing only eighty soldiers. With these he joined Pizarro, and, after many misfortunes, they arrived on the coast of Colombia and landed at Tacamez.

The people of the place were clad in garments made of wool or cotton, and were ornamented with trinkets of gold and silver. The Spanish forces were so few that Pizarro did not think it wise to attack the inhabitants, who appeared so intelligent and so powerful. Thus he retired to the island of Gallo.

In the meantime a new Governor had been appointed in Panama. When Almagro returned for more men and supplies, the Governor would allow neither him nor any of his men to return, but sent a ship to bring Pizarro and his soldiers home. Thus forsaken, the commander went

to the island of Gorgona to await ships and men to carry out his plan.

The Spanish colonists at Panama prevailed upon the Governor to send another ship with supplies to the Spaniards. When it arrived at the island of Gorgona, Pizarro urged the men to remain with him so that he might conquer Peru.

Pizarro Lands in Peru. — With the aid of these few men, Pizarro sailed to the southeast for twenty days and landed at Tumbez on the coast of Peru, three degrees south of the equator. Here the Spaniards found more signs of civilization than at any other place in their travels; but, best of all, they found here a plentiful supply of gold and silver.

As the Peruvians were too numerous to be conquered by a small number of Spaniards, Pizarro sailed along the coast, collected as much gold and other precious metals as he could, and then returned to Panama.

The Governor was still opposed to Pizarro's conquest of Peru: he was not willing to lend any assistance to the project. Pizarro embarked for Spain and told his story to the King and his counselors. They made him Governor, Captain-General, and Admiral of the country.

He Returns to Peru. — With this authority Pizarro departed from Spain, landed at Panama, and sailed with three ships and about 200 men for Peru. In thirteen days they landed at the Bay of St. Matthew. The Spaniards then traveled on foot along the coast of Ecuador and Peru, subduing the natives and procuring large quantities of gold.

One of the ships was then sent back to Panama and Nicaragua with presents of gold to some of the influential men of both countries, and a request for additional soldiers. A month or so later Pizarro and his men were encouraged

by the arrival of a number of soldiers from Nicaragua. Leaving Tumbez, the Spanish soldiers journeyed on till they came to the Piura River. Here they built the first town in Peru and called it St. Michael.

About that time the King or Inca of Peru died, leaving two sons, Atahualpa and Huascar. These young men fought for the control of the country. Pizarro saw that



THE CAPTURE OF ATAHUALPA

this opportunity was too good to be neglected, so he marched forward, and after twelve days approached the encampment of Atahualpa. He sent two of his brothers to the Inca inviting him to a conference. Atahualpa said that he would come the next day. True to his word, he came at the appointed time with a large unarmed body-guard.

A Spanish priest spoke to the Inca about the religion of Jesus Christ. Atahualpa, taking the Bible in his hands, threw it on the ground and told the priest he did not wish to become a Christian. This insulting act on the part of the Inca was the signal for battle. The Spaniards flew to arms, attacked the Peruvians, and seized the Inca.

The Wisdom of Atahualpa. — After some time the Peruvian King realized that the Spaniards were looking chiefly for gold; so he promised Pizarro a roomful of that precious metal if he would grant him freedom. The Captain-General agreed. The Inca, delighted at the thought of being free once more, sent word to all his friends to fill the room with gold.

In the meantime Atahualpa heard that Huascar, who was in prison, had promised to give Pizarro a larger quantity of gold if he would set him at liberty. Fearing that his brother might gain his freedom, Atahualpa had him put to death.

When the Inca had given the amount of gold promised, he thought that Pizarro ought to fulfill his part of the agreement. The Captain-General, however, had no intention of doing so. On the contrary, he caused the Inca to be tried, found guilty, and put to death on June 24, 1534.

Peru is Conquered. — With the two Incas out of the way, Pizarro found little difficulty in subduing the whole of Peru; and on January 6, 1535, founded the city of Lima.

After Almagro had subdued the inhabitants of Chili, the Peruvians rebelled against Pizarro; and had not the Conqueror of Chili returned to Cuzco, that city would have fallen into the hands of the Indians.

Almagro then claimed the city of Cuzco as a part of his territory, but Pizarro said it belonged to Peru. To settle

the question, the soldiers of both conquerors fought, with the result that Almagro was defeated and put to death in July, 1538.

Three years later the followers of Almagro formed a conspiracy and put Pizarro to death in his own palace. Thus died the conqueror of Peru after gaining the reputation of being the most cruel and unscrupulous pioneer of the American continent.

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. Describe Pizarro tending swine on the hillside.
2. Give an account of the conversation between Pizarro and the stranger.
3. What kind of man do you think the stranger was?
4. Why do you suppose that the officer recommended Pizarro?
5. Why was he a favorite companion on Balboa's expedition?
6. How was he helped to fit out his expedition?
7. Locate the Pearl Islands.
8. Describe the people of Colombia as Pizarro saw them.
9. Tell about Pizarro's landing in Peru.
10. Why did the Governor of Panama refuse to lend assistance?
11. What special authority did Pizarro receive from Spain?
12. What was the first town built in Peru?
13. Who were the Incas?
14. To what did Pizarro and the Inca agree?
15. How did each keep his promise?
16. When was the city of Lima founded?
17. Locate the city and tell for what it is noted.
18. What great Catholic woman was born in that city?
19. What do you think of the character of Pizarro?
20. Did he treat Almagro unjustly?

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. If you were to follow in the footsteps of Pizarro, mention the countries through which you would pass and the remarkable places you would see.
- II. State the characteristics possessed by the natives of Peru which made them superior to the inhabitants of Florida.
- III. Read the life of St. Rose of Lima, and tell why it appeals to you.
- IV. Discuss in class: "Was Pizarro, in his conquests, prompted solely by a love of gold?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Atahualpa, ä'tä wäl'pä

Chili (chil'ī), Chile (chē'lā)

Colombia, kō lõm'bē ä

Cuzco, kōōs'kō

Ecuador, ěk'wä dōr'

Gallo, gäl'yō

Gorgona, gōr gō'nä

Huascar, wäs kār'

Luque, lōō'kā

Ojeda, ō hā'thā

Piura, pyōō'rä

Tacamez, tä kă'mēs

Tumbez, tōōm'bēs, tōōm'bēth

FATHER LUIS CANCER, O.S.D.

A Good Question. — “ You asked us last evening, Sister, to find out all we could about the great Dominican missionary, Father Luis Cancer. I looked in my history and did not find a single word about him. Is that not strange, Sister ? ”

“ Yes, John, it is very strange indeed that a school history should not even mention the name of this heroic priest who shed his blood for the faith in the present state of Florida. Did you look in the Catholic Encyclopedia ? ”

“ No, Sister, I did not.”

“ That excellent work has a short account of Father Cancer.”

“ Don’t you think, Sister, that Catholics ought to know more about the life of this great missionary than they do ? ”

“ I certainly do, John. So close your books, take a good sitting position, and I will tell you about him.”

His Life in Spain. — “ Father Cancer was born at Saragossa, Spain, towards the end of the fifteenth century. He doubtless was educated like the ordinary Spanish boy of his time. As a child he was deeply religious ; when he grew to manhood, the wish to become a priest manifested itself more and more. Later on Luis entered the Dominican Order, studied for the priesthood, was ordained, and volunteered to go to the New World to convert the Indians. It is difficult to say when he landed in America. One thing is certain ; he was at the city of San Domingo in 1533, and was reputed to be a man of great holiness.

He Accompanies Father Las Casas. — “When Father Las Casas was preparing to make a second visit to Peru to see that the natives were not enslaved by the Spaniards, Father Cancer was selected as one of his traveling companions. About the beginning of the year 1534, the Dominican missionaries left San Domingo, and landed at Leon, Nicaragua, where they rested. Continuing their journey by land to Corinto, they subsequently embarked for Peru. After a few days at sea, a terrible storm arose and compelled the ship to return to Corinto.

“When it became known that Father Las Casas and his fellow-Dominicans were forced to give up the expedition to Peru, Bishop Marroquin of Guatemala invited the missionaries to his diocese to labor among the Indians.

“Three of the Dominicans, Fathers Cancer, Las Casas, and de Angulo, accepted Bishop Marroquin’s invitation, and went at once to Santiago. On their arrival they received a hearty welcome from the bishop and the Spanish colonists.

The Wrong Method of Converting the Indians. — “The Spanish colonists at Guatemala had already introduced a method of converting the Indians of which Bishop Marroquin did not approve. They were in the habit of sending communications to the natives calling on them to acknowledge the King of Spain as their sovereign, and the Pope of Rome as their spiritual head. When the Indians did not do so at once, they were unjustly attacked by the Spanish soldiers, and killed or beaten into subjection, — those who were taken alive became the slaves of the colonists. This abominable practice had continued for years in spite of the orders issued by the King and the Pope to prevent it.

“The Dominican Fathers were utterly opposed to this

cruel way of dealing with the Indians. They proposed to bring the natives into the Church by preaching to them the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The colonists, however, said that this was impossible.

“‘Let them try their preaching on the inhabitants of the ‘Land of War,’” said one of the chief men of the town.

“The courageous Dominican missionaries took up the challenge, declaring that they were willing to go to the



A NOVEL WAY OF CHRISTIANIZING THE INDIANS

‘Land of War’ and convert the inhabitants. The Spaniards, it must be remembered, had heretofore failed to conquer these ferocious and warlike people.

A Novel Plan to Convert the Indians. — “When the Dominican missionaries had mastered the language used by the natives of Guatemala, they hired four Christian Indians who made their living selling goods to the people

of the 'Land of War.' They taught these to sing a number of catechetical couplets which told of the most important doctrines of our holy religion. Thus equipped, the four Christian Indians went to the 'Land of War' to trade with the Indians and to sing the couplets to them. The first concert so delighted the red men that the singers were asked to repeat the performance the next night. This was done with still greater success. One of the singers played a musical instrument known to the natives, the second had a pair of castanets, the third had a pair of cymbals, and the fourth singer used a timbrel.

"When the chief of the Indians had heard the couplets about the creation of the world, paradise, the redemption of man, etc., he asked the visitors to explain further these things to him.

"'That we cannot do,' said the singers, 'but the Fathers who live down in the white man's village can explain these things.'

"The chief then sent one of his tribe with the four traders to ask the Dominicans to come to the mountains to explain the doctrines of the Christian religion.

"Father Cancer went at once to the 'Land of War' and instructed the inhabitants. So great was the success of his teaching that the chief and a large number of his followers were baptized.

"Having converted the Indians of the 'Land of War' without shedding a drop of blood, Father Cancer accompanied Bishop Las Casas to Spain. As soon as he reached his native land, the news of de Soto's failure to conquer the Indians of Florida was the chief topic of conversation. Without a moment's hesitation, Father Cancer offered his services to Christianize the warlike people. No one but a



FATHER CANCER FACES DEATH

real hero would have made such an offer. Had not Ponce de Leon, Narvaez, and de Soto failed to conquer them?

Father Cancer Goes to Martyrdom. — “The Spanish prince who was then in charge of the kingdom of Spain was thrilled by the zeal and the bravery of Father Cancer. Consequently, he gave orders to have an expedition fitted out to carry the courageous missionary and his fellow laborers to the New World. The ship landed at Vera Cruz in 1548. Father Cancer went at once to the city of Mexico to get the permission of his superior to undertake the mission to Florida. He and his brother Dominicans then sailed to Havana, and thence to Tampa Bay, Florida.

“The Indians noticed the approach of the vessel, and waited in their hiding-places for the missionaries to land. Father Diego de Tolosa and Brother Fuentes were the first to make their way to the shore. They had scarcely reached land when they were killed by the arrows of the Indians.

“The natives then left their hiding-places and rushed towards the shore. When they perceived that the white men whom they had killed were unarmed, they were very much surprised. At that moment Father Cancer felt an impulse to go to the children of the forest. His companions tried to persuade him from doing so, but without avail.

“‘The Saviour died for me on the Cross,’ he said, ‘and should not I be willing to sacrifice my life to bring the glad tidings of the religion of Jesus Christ to these savages?’

“Holding a large crucifix in his hand, Father Cancer, burning with zeal for the salvation of souls, went toward the shore; but before he had time to say a word to the Indians his heart was pierced by an arrow.

“Thus died the first martyrs to the Faith in the United

States. May their blessed memory ever live in the hearts of a grateful people!"

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. Do school histories, as a rule, fail to do justice to the memory of Father Cancer? 2. Give a brief account of his early life. 3. How did he become so friendly with Father Las Casas? 4. What did Bishop Marroquin propose to the Dominicans? 5. Relate the method followed by the colonists in civilizing and Christianizing the natives. 6. What method did the Dominicans propose? 7. Show how they proceeded in converting the Indians. 8. When Father Cancer called on the prince, what work did he propose to undertake? 9. Why did the natives of Florida show no mercy to the missionaries? 10. Describe the death of the first three martyrs of the United States.

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. When the Spaniards first went to Guatemala, they called that country the "Land of War," but after Father Cancer and his fellow missionaries had labored among the inhabitants for some time, the country was called the "Land of Peace." Account for the two names.
- II. Study the history and geography of Guatemala so as to be able to tell the class some interesting facts about this Republic of Central America.
- III. Discuss in class: "Is martyrdom the noblest death?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Corinto, kō rēn'tō	Fuentes, fwēn'tās
Diego de Tolosa, dē ā'gō dā	Leon, lā ōn'
tō lō'sä	Marroquin, mär rō kwīn'
encyclopedia, ēn sī'klō pē'dī ā	Saragossa, sā'rā gōs'ā

JOHN VERRAZANO

How the French King Was Interested.—At the beginning of the sixteenth century, in one of the towns of France, two young men could be seen in an animated conversation. The quickness of their utterance and their many gestures showed plainly that they were intensely interested in the subject.

“I wonder,” said Paul, “why France has not sent an exploring expedition to the New World.”

“Because the King and the people of our country have not ambition enough to do so,” answered Peter.

“Why should such a vast country with all its riches be parceled out among our enemies, the Spaniards and the English?”

“I certainly do not know. As a Frenchman I feel ashamed that my native land has not yet made a settlement in the New World.”

“Suppose we agitate this matter and bring it forcibly to the attention of the King and the people, don’t you think that something might be done to get a share of the New World for France?”

“I think that is an excellent idea. Let us see what we can do.”

It is difficult to say whether the agitation set on foot by these two Frenchmen had anything to do in interesting the King of France in the New World. Perhaps the vast amount of gold and other precious metals brought back to Spain by the explorers had more to do in the matter than anything else. What do you think?

About this time John Verrazano, who was born near Florence, Italy, toward the close of the fifteenth century, entered the service of the King of France, and became famous as a pirate. He played havoc among Spanish vessels coming home, laden with the golden treasures of Mexico. In 1523 he captured two ships coming from the Azores. The large amount of gold which he thus plundered enabled Verrazano to make presents of great value to the King and the nobility of France.

A French Expedition. — Shortly after this an expedition consisting of four ships, under the command of Verrazano, left France to discover a new way to the East. Storms disabled three of the vessels before they reached Madeira, so that only one ship and fifty men started to cross the Atlantic. Sailing to the westward with a light breeze, Verrazano reached the American coast near the present State of North Carolina.

The Commander first turned his ship toward the south in search of a port where he might survey the country; finding none, he sailed along the coast toward the north.

“ See,” said one of the sailors, “ the many fires along the coast. This country must be inhabited. I wonder what kind of beings live here.”

These words aroused the curiosity of the other men. All were on the watch for the appearance of the natives. Presently a number of Indians were seen on the coast. The ship cast anchor, and a few of the sailors rowed to the shore. As the Frenchmen approached land, the Indians fled in terror; but after some time the natives returned, offered food to the strangers, and pointed out a safe place to land.

Verrazano and his men were delighted with the country. The sandy shore, the broad fields, the immense forests, the



VERRAZANO APPROACHING THE INDIANS

perfume of the pines, the singing of the beautifully plumaged birds, and the numerous wild flowers and fruit trees gave the French seamen unbounded pleasure.

Other Points Noted. — After this pleasing sight, Verrazano continued his journey along the coast, exploring, now and then, the many bays and rivers he saw on his way to New York harbor. The latter place was the most beautiful spot which the Frenchmen had yet seen. Here they landed, intending to explore the place; but, before they had accomplished very much, a threatening storm and a very high wind forced them to return to their ship.

Verrazano then sailed through Long Island Sound and Narragansett Bay to Newport harbor. Here he remained for some days making a survey of the surrounding country, looking for a passage to Cathay, and searching for gold. Finding neither, the Commander steered out into the Atlantic and up the coast toward Maine. Here the Indians would neither come near the ship nor allow the Frenchmen to land. Verrazano, however, went ashore in spite of them, and explored the country thereabout.

He Returns to France. — After returning to his ship the Commander found that his provisions were getting scarce; so he went back to France. On landing he gave a most interesting account of his trip from Carolina to Maine, told the people about the many wonderful things he had seen, and insisted that the way to Cathay did not lie through the New World.

Such is a brief account of the first exploring voyage made under the auspices of France in the continent of North America, by John Verrazano. It did not bring wealth and riches to the French nation, but it paved the way for other expeditions.

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. Can you add anything to the conversation that took place between the two Frenchmen?
2. Locate Florence and Madeira.
3. How was Verrazano able to make costly gifts to the King of France?
4. What coast did he touch?
5. How did he and the Frenchmen like the new country?
6. Describe the meeting of the Indians.
7. How far north did he sail?
8. Tell about his voyage along the coast.
9. What was the result of the expedition?

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. Has it ever occurred to you that Verrazano's expedition to the New World is of special interest to the people of the United States? Be prepared to express your opinion regarding this phase of the subject.
- II. Compare Verrazano's voyage of exploration with that of John Cabot; decide which is the more important and give your reason for saying so.
- III. Enumerate and locate the different possessions which France once had in America, and point out those which she has at the present time.
- IV. Discuss in class: "Why did European nations, such as France, wish to explore and colonize the New World?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Azores, à zōrz'

Cathay, kǎ thā'

Madeira, mǎ dē'rǎ

Narragansett, nǎr'ă gǎn'sět

Verrazano, vēr'răt sǎ'nō

JAMES CARTIER ¹

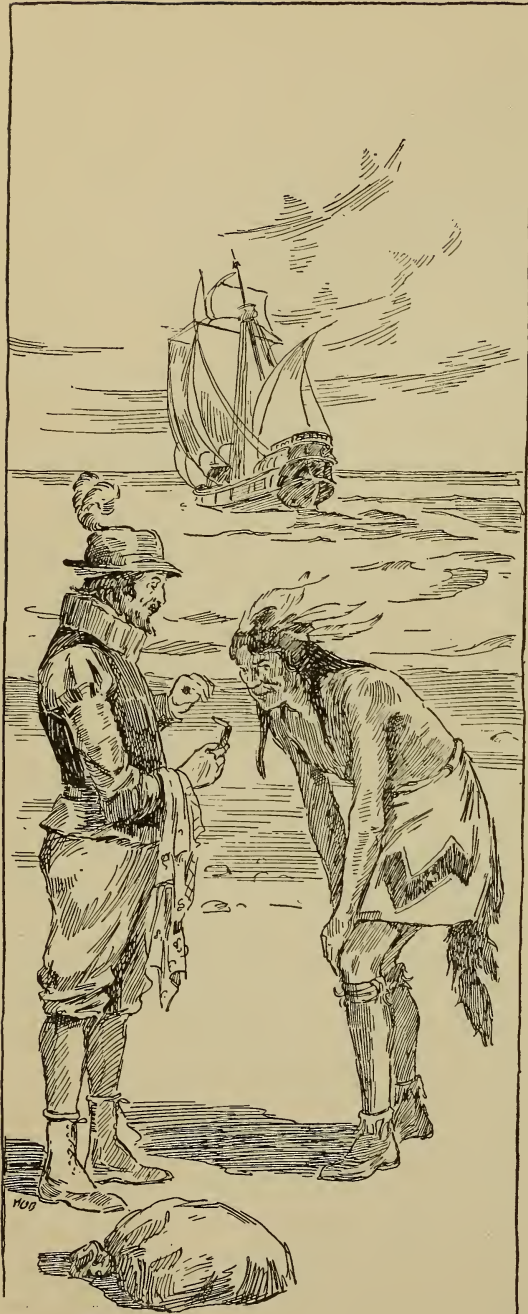
The Commander of the Expedition. — When John Verrazano returned to France in 1524, after exploring the Atlantic coast from Carolina to Maine, he told the people about the wonderful New World which had been discovered. Many Frenchmen were so delighted with his glowing accounts that they desired to go at once to the newly found land. It was ten years, however, before another French expedition was fitted out.

The man selected by the King to command the second expedition was James Cartier. He was born at St. Malo, France, one year before Columbus discovered America. There is very little known about his early life. It is certain, however, that his education was not neglected. His religious training, especially, must have been thorough, because it is evident everywhere in his after life.

As a young man he doubtless followed the sea, and made rapid progress in the art and science of navigation. When he conversed with the King of France regarding his voyage of exploration, that monarch was very much impressed by his plans, and gave orders to have two ships fitted out for him so that he might search for a passage to the East Indies.

Cartier Sails from France. — When all things were in readiness James Cartier, in command of two ships and 120 men, left St. Malo on April 20, 1534, and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in the direction of Newfoundland. Blessed with favorable winds, the ships sighted Cape Bonavista on

¹ Jacques Cartier.



CARTIER TRADING WITH THE INDIANS

the tenth of May. Large floes of ice prevented the vessels from entering the bay of that name, so they sailed southeast to a harbor which Cartier called St. Katharine. Having rested here for nine or ten days, the Captain turned his ships toward the north and reached Bird Island, so called from the immense number of birds found there. He then proceeded northeastward, sailed through the strait of Belle Isle, entered the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and, on the opposite side of the gulf, erected a large cross and took possession of the country in the name of the King of France.

What Cartier Saw. — The appearance of Frenchmen on American soil puzzled the Indians. The natives at first remained at a distance, but when Cartier and his men made them understand that they came as friends to settle

there and teach the Indians the religion of Jesus Christ, the children of the forest became friendly. When Cartier gave them glass beads, pieces of bright calico, bits of colored glass, and penknives, the Indians were delighted, and their chief allowed two of his sons to go back to France with the Commander.

After spending some time exploring the lonely coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, Cartier sailed for France, and



CARTIER SAILING UP THE ST. LAWRENCE

reached St. Malo on September 5, 1534. The two Indian boys were received most kindly by the King and the French people. Cartier's account of his voyage so impressed the French monarch that another expedition was soon fitted out.

The Second Voyage. — About the middle of May, 1535, the second expedition was ready. Before embarking, Cartier went to confession, attended the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and received the blessing of the Bishop of St. Malo. The

three vessels then weighed anchor and faced toward their destination. On their way across the Atlantic, the ships lost sight of one another, and not till the 26th of July did they all meet again in the harbor of Blanc Cablon.

After exploring the vicinity Cartier entered the St. Lawrence and sailed slowly up the river, examining carefully the country on both sides. He passed Saguenay, and stopped at the Isle of Orleans. Here the Indians came near the ships, but they would not come aboard. However, when the two Indian boys who had accompanied Cartier to France told them that the French would not harm them, they crowded on board the vessels to hear what the sons of the chief had to say about France.

The chief, Donnacona, invited the Frenchmen to visit his home at Stadacona, the place where Quebec now stands. Cartier and his men accepted the invitation, and spent some time there getting acquainted with the Indians and their mode of life.

Goes to Montreal. — When Cartier and his men wished to continue their journey up the St. Lawrence, the Indian chief at Stadacona tried in every possible way to keep them from visiting another chief some distance up the river. His efforts, however, were in vain, for the three vessels continued their course till they came to Hochelaga, called by Cartier Mount Royal or Montreal.

Having been received most kindly by the chief of Hochelaga, Cartier and his men returned to Stadacona where they built a fort in which to spend the winter. Oh, what a winter they had! The Frenchmen, unaccustomed to the climate, suffered intensely from the cold. In addition to this, the scurvy broke out among the sailors, and sometimes proved fatal. At one time all the Frenchmen, with the exception

of four or five, were sick from the disease. With such a small force, Cartier feared that the Indians might attack them at any moment. However, he misjudged the children of the forest, for when one of them heard that the French were sick from the scurvy, he brought a tea, made from bark and leaves, which cured them in a short time.

Heretofore Cartier had dealt with the Indians most justly, and consequently had won their good will and friendship. Under the guise of giving a feast to the chief and his followers, the Commander invited the Indians on board. When he had Chief Donnacona and nine other Indians in his possession, he gave orders to sail back to France; and, no matter how the natives pleaded with him to allow them to land, he paid no attention to their entreaties. It is hard to understand how a man of Cartier's principles could have been guilty of such a mean act.

The Third Voyage. — In 1541 the King of France made Cartier Captain-General, but appointed Roberval the Governor of the French possessions in the New World. Was the appointment of a Governor pleasing to Cartier? It is hard to say. At any rate the Captain-General, in command of five ships, left the coast of France for the St. Lawrence River in May of the same year. The Governor, however, was unable to go with him.

When the expedition reached its destination, the Frenchmen soon found that the Indians were no longer their friends, but their sworn enemies. The natives had not forgotten how Cartier had trapped Donnacona and nine other Indians, and had taken them to France, where all had died with the exception of a little girl.

Cartier Again Explores the St. Lawrence. — In spite of the unfriendly attitude of the Indians, Cartier again ascended

the St. Lawrence and explored the surrounding country for the purpose of finding either gold or a passage to the East. His failure to find either did not help to keep up the spirits of his men, many of whom had visions of getting rich quickly, as the Spaniards had done in Central America, Mexico, and Peru.

They had scarcely finished their explorations when winter set in, and they were obliged to spend some months on the banks of the St. Lawrence River not far from Stadacona.

The changed attitude of the Indians and the non-arrival of Governor Roberval caused Cartier to sail for home as soon as the ice had melted in the river. As he neared the coast of Newfoundland, he met the Governor coming from France with three ships and about 200 men. Roberval, when he realized where Cartier was going, tried to persuade him to turn back, but the Captain-General refused to do so.

When Cartier reached his native land, he found France at war. His arrival consequently was hardly noticed. No honors were conferred upon him by the King for the great work which he had done; and no welcome of any account was extended to him by the people. It was indeed a sad ending for such a worthy project.

Some time after his return to France, it is said that Cartier made a fourth voyage to the New World to bring back Governor Roberval and his men. The remaining years of his life were spent quietly and peacefully in the vicinity of St. Malo, where he died September 1, 1557.

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. What led to the second French expedition to America?
2. Give an account of Cartier's early years.
3. Locate St. Malo, and tell about the saint after whom it was called.
4. Describe Cartier's first

voyage. 5. What things in the New World impressed him? 6. How did Cartier deal with the Indians? 7. How do you know that Cartier was well received by the King when he returned to France? 8. Tell how Cartier showed that he was a religious man. 9. What did he accomplish on his second voyage? 10. Give an account of his trip up the St. Lawrence. 11. Was the climate of Canada more severe than the climate of France? 12. Compare the latitude of both places. 13. How did the Indians manifest their friendliness for the French? 14. Show how Cartier returned evil for good. 15. What change did the French find when they arrived in the New World the third time? 16. Why did Cartier return to France? 17. Did he make a fourth voyage? 18. Point out the mistakes made by Cartier. 19. What do you think of his character?

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. Some boys and girls are interested only in the locality in which they live; others take an interest in the whole country; still others are interested not only in their own land but in foreign countries. To which of these three classes do you belong? Give your reasons.
- II. The history and the geography of Canada are undoubtedly very interesting. Enumerate the features that appeal most strongly to you.
- III. Many tourists take a trip up the St. Lawrence River. In your opinion, what are the most interesting points of the journey? Explain how the river was named.
- IV. Discuss in class: "Which treated the Indians more humanely, — the French or the Spaniards?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Blanc Cablon, blāŋk kăb'lōn'

Bonavista, bōn'ă vīs'tă

Cartier, kăr'tyă'

Donnacona, dōn'nă kō'nă

Hochelaga, hōsh'ě lăg'ă

Roberval, rō běr vāl'

Saguenay, săg'ě nă'

St. Malo, săn' mǎ'lō'

Stadacona, stă dăk'ō nă

PETER MENENDEZ

His Early Life. — We often speak of St. Augustine, the oldest city in the United States, but how few of us have read the story of the distinguished naval commander who laid the foundation of that historic spot!

Peter Menendez was born in Spain, at the beginning of the sixteenth century. He loved the sea so fondly that he ran away from home while a mere boy and secured employment on a man-of-war bound for the Mediterranean. Here the Spanish sailors had an opportunity of testing their courage and skill with a band of corsairs from the Barbary States. Peter, to the great astonishment of his companions, fought like a Trojan. His amazing bravery inspired the rest of the crew to redouble their efforts in driving off the brigands.

From this creditable beginning Peter Menendez rose rapidly until he became an Admiral and one of the best known naval commanders of his age. No sooner, however, had he climbed the ladder of fame than great sorrows came into his life. His son, while on a voyage to the New World, was wrecked off the coast of Florida, and he himself was cast into prison for some doubtful crime.

He Goes to Florida. — As soon as he was liberated, he went to King Philip II and begged him to be allowed to go to the New World in search of his shipwrecked son. In brief, the Spanish monarch made him Governor of Florida, and commissioned him to conquer and convert the Indians of that country.

While Menendez was getting his expedition in readiness, he heard on good authority that a party of French Huguenots, under the leadership of Laudonnière and Ribault, had made a settlement in Florida, the territory committed to his care. This news incensed the Spanish commander. He



MENENDEZ BEFORE PHILIP II

looked upon the action of the French as a direct insult to Spain; and he vowed that he would not tolerate it.

Foundation of St. Augustine. — With a large force he sailed in June, 1565, for the New World. On the following August 28, he entered a harbor in Florida and called it St. Augustine, from the saint of the day. A rude fort was hurriedly built, and the foundation of the oldest city in the United States was laid.

As soon as the fort was erected, the French ships ap-

peared before the harbor, and were about to attack the Spanish colony when a terrible hurricane scattered the attacking fleet. Menendez thereupon hastily journeyed to Fort Caroline, captured the garrison, and put to death all but a few who escaped. Later on, when Ribault and his men surrendered, they were killed like dogs. Thus ended the Huguenot settlement in Florida.

Inhuman Conduct. — The terrible slaughter of these Frenchmen is a foul stain on the record of the Spanish nation. It is a stigma that will live as long as the two nations exist. Some writers have endeavored to make the incident appear a religious warfare; but this contention is not borne out by facts. It was chiefly a national struggle.

The action of Menendez in butchering the French colonists was certainly outrageous. So, too, was the retaliation of Dominic de Gourgues, who two years later slaughtered the Spanish garrison at Fort Caroline.

Some years after these terrible happenings, when Spain was preparing to invade England, Menendez was recalled to take charge of the expedition. God, however, demanded an accounting of his stewardship before the Spanish Armada sailed for England.

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. What is the oldest city in the United States?
2. How was it founded?
3. Tell of the early life of Menendez.
4. Relate his first encounter with the corsairs.
5. Why did he wish to go to the New World?
6. What commission was given to him by the King?
7. State the cause of his trouble with the French.
8. What was the result of their encounters?
9. What do you think of Menendez's treatment of Ribault and his men?
10. How did De Gourgues retaliate?
11. Why did Menendez return to Spain?

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. Everything that happens in this world has a cause: England's unjust treatment of the American colonists caused the Revolutionary War, and the Revolutionary War brought about American Independence. This being so, give the cause of the Spanish expedition, known as the Armada, that sailed for England in 1588.
- II. Locate and draw an outline of the Barbary States; get an idea of their inhabitants; and explain why the United States went to war with Tripoli.
- III. In order to become better acquainted with the Huguenots, or French Protestants, mentioned in the text, read the account given of them in the "Catholic Encyclopedia," and be ready to express your opinion of them.
- IV. Discuss in class: "Did the trouble between Spain and France arise from political or religious differences?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Armada, ăr mǎ'dǎ

corsair, kôr'sâr

De Gourgues, dĕ gōōrg'

Huguenots, hū'gĕ nōts

Laudonnière, lō'dō'nyâr'

Menendez, mǎ nĕn'dǎth

Ribault, rĕ'bō'

Trojan, trō'jăn

REV. PETER MARTINEZ, S.J.

To Christianize Florida. — When Menendez was commissioned by the Spanish King to conquer and convert the natives of Florida in 1565, he was obliged to take with him and to support twelve Religious and four members of the Society of Jesus. Owing to some unexpected delay the four Jesuits were unable to embark with the commander and his men. A few months later, however, they set sail for the New World.

The Superior of these missionaries, Rev. Peter Martinez, the first Jesuit to land in the New World, was born in 1533 at Feruel, a little village in the north of Spain. From his youth he was devoted heart and soul to the things of God; and he found unbounded pleasure in doing little services for others.

As he grew to manhood, he entered the Society of Jesus, and soon was noted for his piety and learning. Everyone who knew him felt a special attraction to him. So admirable were his qualities of mind and heart that he was selected as Superior of the first band of Jesuits to go to the New World.

Before leaving his native land, Father Martinez wrote a long letter to St. Francis Borgia, then Superior General of the Society. In this memorable communication he said :

“ By the mercy of God, we undertake this voyage with courage and with entire confidence in His grace. . . . Rest assured, dear Father, that we shall employ all our strength

with the assistance of divine grace, in bringing the inhabitants of those provinces to the knowledge of their Creator and Redeemer — that the souls redeemed by the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ may not perish forever.”

The Massacre. — When the vessel bearing the Jesuits reached the American coast near Florida in 1566, the Captain asked a few of the crew to land and explore the neighboring country. At first the men refused to endanger their lives by going among the fierce Indians whom they saw on the shore. Finally about a dozen of them were willing to land, if Father Martinez would accompany them. The brave priest was the first to go into the boat.

When Father Martinez and his companions had reached land, a terrible storm arose and drove the ship, which they had left, far from the shore. On this wild and dreary coast the exploring party waited for ten days thinking that some vessel might come to their assistance; but alas! they were doomed to disappointment.

Father Martinez and his brave companions were thus left to the mercy of the Indians. For some days they subsisted on a few herbs gathered in the vicinity. All this time the natives were waiting for an opportunity to seize them. One day as the Spaniards were traveling through a wild country, the Indians pounced upon them, massacred the brave Jesuit, but spared his companions.

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. Who were to have accompanied Menendez on his expedition to Florida? 2. Tell something of Father Martinez's early life. 3. For what special virtues was he remarkable? 4. What did he say in his letter to St. Francis Borgia? 5. Were the crew anxious to land? 6. Upon what condition did they do so? 7. What misfortune befell them? 8. Give an account of Father Martinez's martyrdom.

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. Look up the early history of Florida; note especially the explorers who tried to conquer it, and the missionaries who watered its soil with their blood.
- II. Read a short account of the Society of Jesus, paying particular attention not only to the purpose of its foundation, but to what it has accomplished in the United States.
- III. Locate the island of Cumberland where Father Martinez was massacred; tell for what it is noted; and name the American general who lived and died there.
- IV. Discuss in class: "Was the Spaniards' treatment of the Indians of Florida in any way responsible for the massacre of Father Martinez?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Borgia, bôr'jä
Feruel, fěr'oo ěl

Martinez, mär tē'nāth

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE

His Ambition. — One sultry afternoon two gentlemen, while walking leisurely along the wharves of an English port, were attracted by a boy who sat watching the ships in the harbor.

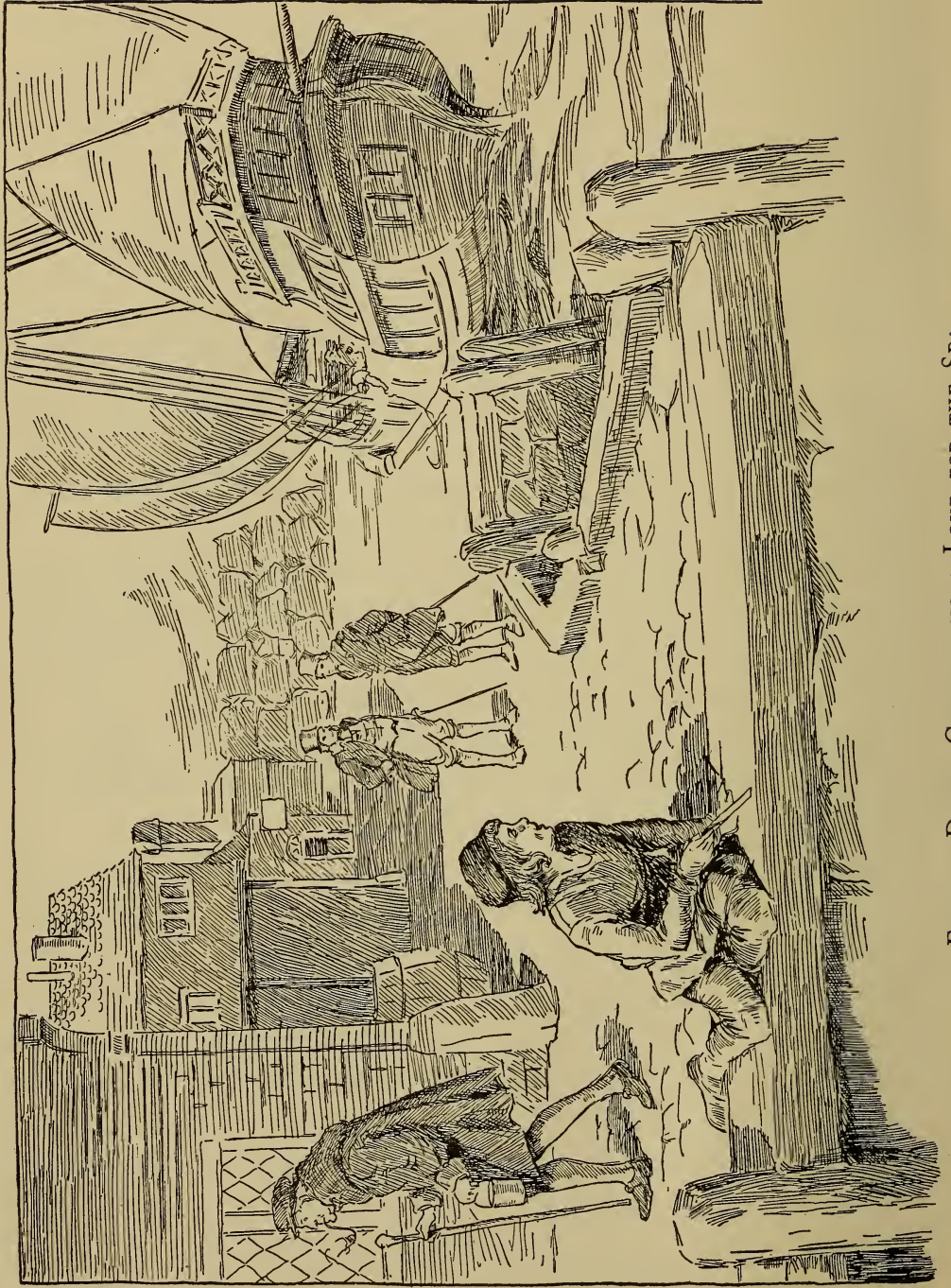
“That lad,” said one of the gentlemen, “is one day going to be a sailor. See the interest he takes in the vessels! Notice how intently he watches them sail out of the harbor!”

The two gentlemen thereupon approached the boy and spoke to him. “Why are you watching these vessels so intently, my lad? Is your father aboard one of them? Or are you wishing that you were a sailor?”

“I was just thinking, sir, how happy I should be on that large vessel. I want to be a sailor. That is my ambition. No other life has an attraction for me.”

The boy who made this answer was Francis Drake, one of the most popular heroes of the English navy. He was the eldest of a family of twelve children and lived near Plymouth on the southern coast of England. Francis was born about the middle of the sixteenth century, when the minds of young and old were taken up with the doings of the great navigators of the past fifty years. Living near the seashore and close to an important port, he was naturally interested in sailors and ships.

He Goes to Sea. — It was a happy day for Francis when his parents gave him permission to be a cabin boy on a sailing vessel. He was so bright and cheerful and made



FRANCIS DRAKE CULTIVATING A LOVE FOR THE SEA

himself so useful that the Captain took a special interest in him. On the other hand, no one could have served the master of the vessel better than this boy. He did everything as if he were doing it for himself. The Captain was so impressed by this that, when he died a few years later, he gave his ship to young Drake as a reward for faithful service.

Drake then decided to go with a daring sea-captain, John Hawkins, on a voyage to the West Indies. A Spanish fleet, however, completely destroyed the five English ships, and Hawkins and Drake had a narrow escape from drowning.

This incident made such a deep impression on Drake that he vowed he would have revenge upon the Spaniards if it took him a lifetime. It was then that he began a life of piracy upon the Spanish possessions and Spanish ships.

After making several short voyages of plunder, Drake left England in November, 1577, with a fleet of five ships. Having sailed for about two months, they reached Brazil. Skirting the coast the fleet sailed to the south. Terrible storms and dense fogs not only impeded their progress but caused the destruction of two of the ships.

Acts of Piracy. — About the middle of August, 1578, Drake with three vessels entered the Strait of Magellan. During the passage through the strait one ship was lost and another deserted him. This, however, did not discourage the English Captain. He proceeded at once along the western coast of South America till he came to the harbor of Valparaiso. Here he surprised and captured a Spanish ship loaded with gold and wine; then entered the town and secured an abundant supply of provisions.

Some months later Drake sailed into the port of Lima

and caused considerable consternation. Seeing here nothing that he greatly desired, and hearing that a treasure-laden vessel had recently left for Panama, he started in hot pursuit. After a long and exciting race, the Spanish ship was captured and a large quantity of gold and jewels taken from her.

The next victims of Drake's injustice were a few Spanish ships returning heavily laden from the far East. After confiscating whatever valuables they had, the English Captain steered toward the north and reached California, which he called New Albion. Here the Indians greeted him most kindly, and asked him to stay with them and to become their king. Drake, however, was too eager to carry back his stolen treasures to England.

His Return Voyage. — Fearing lest the Spaniards should lie in wait for him were he to return as he came, Drake decided to follow another course. Accordingly, he crossed the Pacific Ocean, and landed at the Philippine Islands, where he obtained a quantity of provisions from the natives. Thus supplied he steered toward the Cape of Good Hope, skirted the western coast of Africa, and arrived in England November 3, 1580, after an absence of nearly three years.

Great indeed was the reception accorded to him. High and low vied with one another in honoring him. Queen Elizabeth, we are told, dined on board his ship, and made him a knight.

Drake was a most courageous and skillful sailor; he fought valiantly for his country when it was attacked by the Spanish Armada; he was moreover the second to circumnavigate the globe. For these deeds we honor him. With his life as a pirate we have no sympathy. The historian Bancroft truly says: "The adventures of Drake were but

a career of splendid piracy against a nation with which his sovereign and his country professed to be at peace."

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. Repeat the conversation between Francis Drake and the two gentlemen. 2. What circumstance in his early life helped to foster his love for the sea? 3. How was his desire fulfilled? 4. Why was the Captain so interested in Francis Drake? 5. How was the young sailor rewarded? 6. What incident occurred to increase Drake's dislike for the Spaniards? 7. State how it affected his later life. 8. Why did he make a voyage to the New World? 9. Describe his passage through the Strait of Magellan. 10. Tell about his exploits at Valparaiso and along the Pacific coast. 11. Give an account of his reception by the Indians at California. 12. What caused him to cross the Pacific on his homeward voyage? 13. Why was he given a warm reception on his return to England? 14. What signal honor was conferred upon him by Queen Elizabeth? 15. Do you think that he deserved that honor? 16. Having read the story of Sir Francis Drake, could you tell that he was not a Catholic?

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. Read about the wonderful State of California where Drake landed, and note the landmarks of the Catholic missionaries. Study the shape of this State, and tell what you know about the climate.
- II. You will notice that both Drake and Verrazano were at one time pirates. How did they win the favor of their sovereigns? Was piracy considered less criminal then than it is now?
- III. Explain the connection between the circumference of the earth and the circumnavigation of the globe.
- IV. Discuss in class: "Does Bancroft give a just estimation of Drake's work?"

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY

Albion, ăl'bī ŭn
Plymouth, plīm'ŭth

Valparaiso, văl'pá rī'sō, văl'pă-
ră ē'sō

REV. PETER DE CORPA, O.S.F.

A Classroom Scene. — “What do you mean by a martyr, Mary?” asked Father Burke, who was visiting the classroom.

“A martyr, Father, is one who dies for his faith.”

“That is a good answer, Mary. Can any pupil give a better one?”

The boys and girls put on their thinking caps. Silence reigned supreme for a minute or two. Teresa then raised her hand.

“Well, Teresa, what is your definition of a martyr?”

“A martyr, Father, is one who sacrifices his life for the religion of Jesus Christ.”

“That is very good, Teresa. Can you tell me the name of the first martyr?”

Teresa did not know. So Father Burke said: “Can any boy or girl in the class tell me?”

“The first martyr, Father, was St. Stephen. He was stoned to death.”

“That is excellent, Fred. Can you tell me the names of some of the martyrs of the United States?”

“Sister told us the names of several American martyrs, but I remember only one of them, Father de Corpa.”

“I want to tell you, boys and girls, about this holy and heroic missionary.”

A Franciscan Martyr. — In 1577 the Franciscans came from Spain to St. Augustine to labor among the Indians of

the neighborhood. Sixteen years later other missionaries came. These zealous ambassadors of Christ underwent all kinds of hardships and fatigues in their priestly labors. Exposed to the burning sun, and oftentimes without enough to eat, they toiled like true soldiers of Jesus Christ.

Foremost among these missionaries was the Rev. Peter de Corpa, who with three other Franciscans carried the light of the Gospel to the inhabitants of the coast of Georgia, and subsequently to the Indians in the vicinity of St. Augustine. The men among these wild and ferocious people were accustomed to have a number of wives. It was oftentimes very difficult to persuade some of the braves to give up all but one of their wives. This they had to do before the Franciscans would baptize them.

On one occasion, a chief who had been baptized took back all his wives, and thus gave great scandal to the other Christian Indians. Father de Corpa like a kind father appealed to him privately.

Words of Counsel. — “My son,” said the kind priest, “did you not promise before you were baptized to put away all your wives?”

“Yes, I promised,” replied the young chief, “but I am sorry I did so. I do not think that it is just towards my other wives. They love me as dearly as the one I kept. I do not see what harm it is to keep them all. I can support them.”

“Our religion,” said Father de Corpa, “forbids a man to have more than one wife at the same time. You knew that when you became a Christian. You put away all your wives but one. You promised to live up to the laws of our holy religion. It is a sign of weakness to break your promise. Be a man of your word.”

“I cannot give up all my wives,” said the Indian, “they are too dear to me.”

“If you are not willing to live like the other Christian Indians, we must cut you off from the religion of Jesus Christ.”

“I do not care what you do. I will keep all my wives.”

Perceiving that this private talk did not produce the desired effect, Father de Corpa spoke of the matter publicly. He explained to the Indians of the neighborhood that he had counseled the chief to put away all but one of his wives, and that the latter was not willing. He then called their attention to the strict law of the Christian religion regarding marriage.

A Dastardly Act. — When the chief heard that Father de Corpa had spoken of him publicly and had condemned his actions, he vowed speedy vengeance; he determined to silence forever the priest who dared to insult him.

A few evenings later, the Indian and one or two followers remained in the rude chapel till Father de Corpa came in to pay a visit to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. They waited patiently till the good missionary was wrapt in devotion. The golden opportunity was at hand. Like tigers eager for their prey, they crept up behind him. The tomahawk of the chief was raised, and in a moment the brains of the priest were upon the floor.

Such was the earthly reward of Father de Corpa. Who can describe the heavenly bliss which he now enjoys?

QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. What do you think of Teresa's definition of a martyr?
2. Why is it better than the one given by Mary?
3. Why were the Franciscans so called?
4. What Franciscan saints do you know?
5. Give an

account of the trials and hardships which the Franciscans underwent in Florida. 6. What special obstacle did the missionaries have to overcome there? 7. Repeat the conversation between Father de Corpa and the Indian. 8. What was the outcome of the priest's counsel? 9. How did the Indian take revenge? 10. Describe the scene in the chapel.

CORRELATED STUDIES

- I. Read the life of the founder of the Franciscans, St. Francis of Assisi, and ascertain why this great saint is so popular with both Catholics and non-Catholics.
- II. Write for the class a short paper telling of the chief products of Georgia, mentioning at the same time those that are used in the United States, and those that are exported.
- III. Consult the "Catholic Dictionary," page 552, for the definition of a martyr given by Pope Benedict XIV. Compare this with the definition given in "Webster's International Dictionary."
- IV. Discuss in class: "Was the famous Father Damien of Molokai a martyr?"

APPENDIX

ST. BRENDAN

St. Brendan was born in County Kerry, Ireland, in 484, and was elevated to the priesthood in 512. It was during his time that Christian missionaries went forth from Ireland to preach the Gospel in foreign lands. St. Brendan and a number of monks are said to have sailed in search of a distant land, and after a voyage of seven years to have reached the American continent. There is, however, no historical proof of this journey.

THE NORTHMEN

History tells us that the Northmen reached the shores of Iceland about the year 784. Here a prosperous settlement was made and a government established. Later on a comparatively rich Icelandic literature sprang up, and the Catholic religion flourished.

From the historical records of Iceland we learn that the Northmen discovered Greenland at the end of the ninth century, colonized it in the tenth, and Christianized it in the eleventh. The same sources tell us that a country southwest of Greenland was discovered by these same daring seamen and called Vinland. It is almost certain that this country was on the mainland of North America, but no permanent settlements appear to have been made. For a more lengthy account of this interesting subject read "A History of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States" by Right Rev. Thomas O'Gorman, D.D.

REV. JUAN PEREZ

Rev. Juan Perez was born in the latter part of the fifteenth century of noble Spanish parents. At one time he was accountant to Queen Isabella, but later he entered the Franciscan Order. Having distinguished himself for piety and learning, Queen Isabella chose him for her confessor. Father Perez, however, finding court life too distracting, received the Queen's permission to return to his cell at La Rabida. Here it was that Columbus met and interested the zealous Franciscan in his plan for a new route to India.

PAOLO TOSCANELLI

Paolo Toscanelli (1397-1482), the celebrated mathematician, astronomer, and cosmographer, was born at Florence, Italy. Being one of the most distinguished scientists of the fifteenth century, it was natural that he should have been consulted by European kings as to the feasibility of the plans of Columbus to find a new route to India. It is also said that Columbus, some time before he embarked on his ever-memorable voyage, asked the advice of Toscanelli.

THE JULIAN AND THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR

For hundreds of years before the time of our Lord, the Greeks and the Romans had considerable trouble in reckoning and arranging the number of days in a year. Their year, it must be remembered, had but 355 days. The great Julius Cæsar, 45 B.C., put an end to the trouble by deciding that there were $365\frac{1}{4}$ days in a year. He arranged to have four months with thirty days, seven months with thirty-one days, and February to have 28. The total

made but 365 days. In order to provide for the extra fraction of a day, Cæsar decided that February should have 29 days every fourth year.

For more than fifteen hundred years the Julian Calendar was followed. Subsequently, it dawned on the minds of men that the length of a year was not 365 days and 6 hours as Cæsar said, but only 365 days 5 hours 48 minutes and 48 seconds. Consequently, every Julian year was 11 minutes and 12 seconds too long. In the time of Pope Gregory XIII the error amounted to ten days. Accordingly, the ten days were dropped, and October 4, 1582, was called October 15, 1582. To correct the error made by Cæsar, the Pope decreed that only each fourth centurial year should be a leap year; for example 1600, 2000, 2400, 2800, 3200 have 366 days, but 1700, 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300, have 365. The Julian Calendar is called the Old Style and the Gregorian Calendar is called the New Style.

REV. MARTIN WALDSEEMÜLLER

Rev. Martin Waldseemüller, who on his great map of the world gave the name America to the New World, was born about 1475 in or near Fribourg, and died as a Canon of St. Die in Lorraine in 1522. This celebrated cartographer is mainly responsible for the publication of "*Cosmographiæ Introductio*," a book containing a geographical introduction and an account of the four voyages of Americus Vesputius. This notable volume was published April 25, 1507.

THE HUGUENOTS

The Huguenots were a number of French Calvinists or Protestants who came to America in February, 1562, to establish a colony. The first expedition, under the com-

mand of John Ribault, landed at Port Royal, South Carolina, and erected Fort Charles. Leaving about thirty Frenchmen to keep possession of the new territory, Ribault returned to France for provisions and men. Sometime after, the settlers, becoming homesick, constructed a vessel and sailed for France, but were captured by the English before they reached their destination.

It was not till 1564 that the French King allowed three ships under the command of Laudonnière to sail for the New World. The French commander established Fort Caroline on the St. Johns River in Florida. As soon, however, as the provisions of the settlement grew scarce, murmurs of discontent were heard. Speaking of the colony at this particular time, Bancroft says:

“ But the worst evil in the new settlement was the character of the emigrants. Though patriotism and religious enthusiasm had prompted the expedition, the inferior class of the colonists was a motley group of dissolute men. Mutinies were frequent. The men were mad with the passion for sudden wealth, and a party, under the pretense of desiring to escape from famine, compelled Laudonnière to sign an order permitting their embarkation for New Spain. No sooner were they possessed of this apparent sanction of the chief than they equipped two vessels, and began a career of piracy against the Spaniards. Thus the French were the aggressors in the first act of hostility in the New World; an act of crime and temerity which was soon avenged.”

Later on, when Ribault arrived bringing an abundance of supplies, the French colonists were filled with joy; but their joy was of short duration, for Menendez soon destroyed the Huguenot settlement.

TOPICAL INDEX

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alabama, 89 | Cathay, 111 | Feruel, 124 |
| Albion, 130 | Cebu, 80 | Florence, 16, 108, 138 |
| Almagro, 95 | Central America, 27, 106 | Florida, 57, 88, 120 |
| America, 6, 15, 29 | Central States, 91 | Fonseca, 73 |
| Antilles, 89 | Chiapas, 51 | Fountain of Youth, 56 |
| Aragon, 54 | Chile, 98 | France, 2 |
| Argentina, 83 | China, 22 | Franciscans, 46, 132 |
| Arkansas, 89 | Cipango, 22 | Fuentes, 106 |
| Armada, 122, 130 | Colombia, 95 | |
| Asia, 22 | Columbus, 1, 17, 29, 42 | Gallo, 95 |
| Atahualpa, 97 | Concepcion, 74 | Genoa, 1, 21 |
| Azores, 109 | Corinto, 102 | Georgia, 89, 132 |
| Aztecs, 65 | Cortes, 61 | Good Hope, 73, 130 |
| | Coyba, 32 | Gorgona, 96 |
| Bahamas, 8, 56 | Cozumel, 63 | Grand Khan, 25 |
| Balboa, 29 | Cuba, 8, 62 | Guadalquiver River, 42 |
| Barcelona, 51 | Cuzco, 98 | Guam, 79 |
| Belle Isle, 114 | | Guanahani, 6 |
| Bimini, 56 | Da Gama, 73 | Guatemala, 50, 102 |
| Bird Island, 114 | Darien, 19, 29, 84 | Guayaquil, 50 |
| Blanc Cablon, 116 | Davila, 37 | |
| Bobadilla, 10, 45 | Del Cano, 82 | Haiti, 8, 50 |
| Bonavista, 113 | De Corpa, 132 | Hatteras, 26 |
| Borgia, 124 | De Gourgues, 122 | Havana, 58, 88, 106 |
| Brazil, 17, 75, 129 | De Soto, 84, 106 | Henry the Navigator, 27 |
| Breton, 24 | Dominica, 9 | Hispaniola, 50 |
| Bristol, 23 | Dominicans, 46, 51 | Hochelaga, 116 |
| | Donnacona, 116 | Honduras, 12 |
| Cabot, 21 | Don Pedro, 84 | Huascar, 97 |
| Cadiz, 9, 17 | Drake, 127 | Huguenots, 121, 139 |
| California, 70, 130 | | |
| Canada, 119 | Easter Sunday, 56 | Inca, 86 |
| Cancer, 101 | East Indies, 113 | India, 2, 17, 22 |
| Careta, 32 | Ecuador, 96 | Isabella, 3 |
| Carib, 56 | Enciso, 30 | Italy, 1, 16, 21 |
| Carolina, 111 | England, 2, 24 | |
| Caroline, 122, 140 | Europe, 2, 16, 22 | Jamaica, 9 |
| Cartier, 113 | | Japan, 22 |
| Carvalho, 75 | Ferdinand, 8, 58 | |

- Labrador, 24, 115
 Ladrone, 79
 La Plata, 19, 76
 Las Casas, 42, 102
 Laudonnière, 121, 140
 Leon, Ponce de, 54, 106
 Lesser Antilles, 58
 Lima, 98, 129
 Luque, 95

 Mactan, 80
 Madeira, 109
 Magellan, 72
 Maine, 111
 Malayan, 79
 Mandeville, 27
 Margarita, 9
 Marroquin, 102
 Martinez, 124
 Mazana, 79
 Medellin, 61
 Mediterranean, 2, 120
 Menendez, 120, 124, 140
 Mexico, 61, 118
 Mississippi, 89
 Moluccas, 81
 Montesino, 46
 Montezuma, 63
 Montreal, 116
 Moors, 54, 73
 Morocco, 73
 Moscoso, 90
 Mount Royal, 116

 Narragansett Bay, 111
 Narvaez, 66, 88, 106
 Newfoundland, 25, 113
 Newport, 111
 New York, 111
 Nicaragua, 12, 50, 86, 96
 Northmen, 137

 Ojeda, 95
 Oporto, 72
 Orinoco, 9
 Orleans, 116
 Ovando, 45, 55, 61

 Palos, 5
 Panama, 12, 37, 95
 Pascua Florida, 57
 Patagonia, 76
 Pearl Islands, 95
 Perez, 3, 138
 Pernambuco, 75
 Peru, 50, 86, 93, 118
 Philippines, 79, 130
 Piura River, 97
 Pizarro, 50, 86, 93
 Plymouth, 127
 Polo, 21
 Porto Rico, 49, 55
 Portugal, 3, 18

 Quebec, 116

 Ribault, 121, 140
 Rio de Janeiro, 75
 Robber Island, 79
 Roberval, 117

 Saguenay, 116
 Salamanca, 42, 61
 San Antonio, 74
 San Domingo, 12, 29, 42
 San Salvador, 6
 San Sebastian, 30
 Santa Cruz, 76
 Santa Maria, 36
 Santiago, 74, 102
 Saragossa, 101
 Seville, 17, 42, 74
 South America, 9, 17
 South Carolina, 89, 140

 South Sea, 89
 Spain, 3, 18, 23, 29
 Spice Islands, 78
 Stadacona, 116
 St. Augustine, 57, 120
 St. Brendan, 137
 St. Dominic, 46
 St. Jerome, 48
 St. Julian, 76
 St. Katharine, 114
 St. Lawrence, 17, 114
 St. Mark, 24
 St. Mary of Victory, 74
 St. Matthew, 96
 St. Michael, 97
 St. Rose of Lima, 99

 Tacamez, 95
 Tallahassee, 89
 Tampa Bay, 89, 106
 Teneriffe, 74
 Tezcoco, 69
 Tolosa, 106
 Toscanelli, 27, 138
 Trinidad, 9, 74
 Trojan, 120
 Truxillo, 12, 93
 Tumbez, 96

 Union Jack, 26
 United States, 107, 132

 Valladolid, 12
 Valparaiso, 129
 Velasquez, 61
 Venice, 21
 Vera Cruz, 63, 106
 Verrazano, 108
 Vespuccius, 15
 Victoria, 74

 West Indies, 44, 55

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